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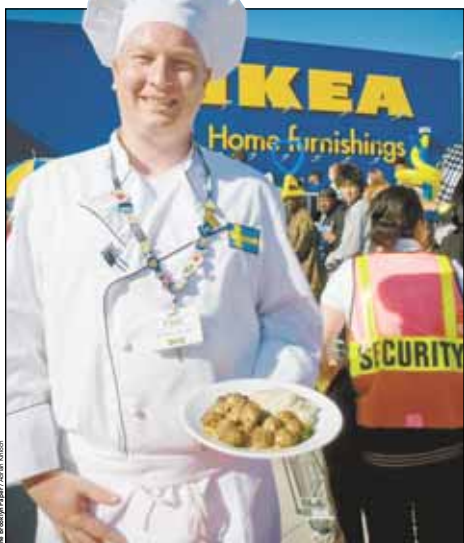
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN-NORTH BROOKLYN
WITH CARROLL GARDENS, COBBLE HILL, BOERUM HILL, FORT GREENE, CLINTON HILL, DUMBO, WILLIAMSBURG, GREENPOINT

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The opening day of Ikea's superstore on Beard Street in Red Hook featured hundreds of cheering employees, circus acts, bands, giveaways, the company's famous Swedish meatballs and, apparently, the sale of some furniture.

MEAT & GREET! IKEA DOCKS IN RED HOOK

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Red Hook's long-awaited Ikea — with a suitably long line — opened on Wednesday morning, heralding a new era for furniture shoppers, bargain hunters, meatball lovers and, perhaps more important, the troubled waterfront neighborhood.

It was a carnival scene outside the blue-and-yellow furniture behemoth on Beard Street, as jugglers performed, jazz musicians sang, workers handed out Ikea tchotchkes, politicians gave speeches and the first 35 customers got their reward for spending the previous two full days on line: vouchers for a new Ekorp couch, a \$399 value.

One man who bided his time realized that the people on waiting with him line share a shared personality trait.

"We all have something in com-

INSIDE The Brooklyn Paper IKEA BUREAU



BROOKLYN'S BEST IKEA COVERAGE

PAGE 2

mon — we're crazy," joked Jason Nunez, who was joined by his roommate for the endurance test.

People who didn't have a spare 48 hours to camp on a sidewalk were arriving in a steady stream on Wednesday morning, both in private cars and on public buses. An hour before the 9 am opening, there were already 150 vehicles in the 1,400-space lot, according to a man directing traffic. "I've been out here since 6 o'clock working hard," said Michael Evans, wearing a brightly colored traffic vest and flagging visitors towards open parking spots. "Never a dull moment until 10 o'clock tonight."

Half an hour before the crowd was released into the 346,000 square feet of showrooms of coordinated bedrooms, linens, sleek kitchens, and oodles of flatware, picture frames and tropical plants.

See **IKEA** on page 2

It's yes!

Half-priced Broadway tix on the way to Downtown

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

It's going to be a lot easier for Brooklynites to give their regards to Broadway starting this summer.

On July 10, the curtain will go up at a new TKTS booth on the Metrotech office campus in Downtown. Like its Manhattan counterparts, the booth, at Jay Street and the Myrtle Avenue promenade, will sell same-day discount tickets to on- and off-Broadway shows.

But unlike the Manhattan ticket windows, the Metrotech outpost will offer deals to performing arts venues in Brooklyn, including the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts, and St. Ann's Warehouse. It will also be the first to accept credit cards.

The booth will "add cachet to all the other things that are happening



A TKTS booth in Downtown, scheduled to open July 10, will sell discounted same-day tickets for Broadway and off-Broadway shows.

in Downtown Brooklyn, particularly of a cultural nature," said Mike Weiss, executive director of the Metrotech Business Improvement District. "It's a beacon of some really attractive activity in and around Downtown."

The booth will open as more than 20,000 new residents begin moving into the area and tens of thousands of office workers, college students, and Marriott hotel guests descend on the area each day. Weiss said that surveys show that Downtown residents and workers would double their theater-going if there was a convenient, inexpensive way to get tickets.

It's not the first time the Theatre Development Fund has put a TKTS booth in Downtown. There was a TKTS window in the plaza outside the state Supreme Court building near Montague Street from 1985 to 1993 and, before that, on the Fulton Mall at Albee Square.

TKTS booths offer same-day evening and next-day matinee tickets for Broadway and off-Broadway shows at discounts of up to 50-percent off full-price.

Kiss the glass library goodbye

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The Brooklyn Public Library's ambitious plan to build an iconic, Enrique Norton-designed performing arts branch near the Brooklyn Academy of Music has been abandoned, but rising in its place will be another Norton creation, this one a luxury residential, cultural and office edifice.

Two Trees Management, the developer that single-handedly transformed DUMBO into first an artistic center and, more recently, a luxury residential neighborhood, has been called in by the city now that the Brooklyn Public Library has finally given up on its \$135-million performing and visual arts library.

"We weren't in position to fully fund it," said Jason Carey, a library spokesman.

Even though the library ditched its fancy digs, the city and the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership still wanted the allure of a breathtaking building and public plaza on the triangle bounded by Flatbush Avenue Extension, Lafayette Avenue and Ashland Place — the gateway to the BAM Cultural District.

That district is already home to the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Mark Morris Dance Center, the BAM Harvey Theater and the Brooklyn Music School. Soon, the Frank Gehry-designed Theater for a New Audience, a new home for the Manhattan-based Dancespace, a renovated Strand Theater and two new public spaces will join the district.

The city and Two Trees are on the verge of a final agreement in which principals David and Jed Walentas would pay \$20 million for the triangular property and turn over a Walentas-owned site on Ashland Place to the Brooklyn Academy of Music, which plans to build back offices and a 263-seat community theater.

The consolation prize for the Brooklyn Public Library is the chance to open a local branch inside the new Walentas building, which will have 180 apartments, commercial space for arts organizations and a 450-car, underground parking garage.

"We've expressed interest in us being part of the development. It's an opportunity to develop a neighborhood library," Carey told The Brooklyn Paper.

In a related action, the city intends to seek proposals for a 200-unit apartment building, with half reserved for low- and middle-income people, on a lot next to the Mark Morris Dance Center at the northwest corner of Lafayette Avenue and Ashland Place.

Jed Walentas said the new deal is a win for everyone.

"The city wants to create parking, they want great architecture, they want as much open space as possible and they want to make as much money out of it as possible," said Walentas.

FLASHBACK THE NEW BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY LOTS OF GLASS, NOT ENOUGH CASH



Our front page from January, 2006, saw the writing on the glass.

Coney's re-zonie balcony Foes find common ground over city's land grab plan

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The fight for the soul of Coney Island begins for real next week when supporters of independent amusement operators and the neighborhood's private developers battle a city plan to buy up land and create a new and expanded amusement area that the mayor believes will save the faded "People's Playground."

The city plan would transform Coney Island's amusement core — bounded by the Boardwalk, Keyspan Park, the Cyclone roller coaster and Surf Avenue — into a year-round tourist destination with a new city-owned theme park, privately developed hotels and a multitude of entertainment attractions like movie theaters, arcades and an enclosed water park.

And adjacent to the amusement area, the city plans 4,000 to 5,000 new apartments. It'll enter the first phase of public debate on Tuesday with a hearing at Lincoln H.S.

The plan involves a lot of heavy lifting for city officials who will have to:

- Buy land from resistant private owners, notably Joe Sitt of Thor Equities, a critic of the city's plan to build nine acres of rules around existing attractions like the landmark Cyclone roller coaster and Deno's Wonder Wheel.

- Win over critics, like former ally and Sideshow operator Dick Zigun, who have trashed the notion of a glitzy area of towering hotels and so-called "entertainment retail" outlets.

- Find hundreds of millions of dollars for its sprawling vision of a Vegas-style, 24-7 attraction on the Atlantic as government budgets are declining and the economy is in crisis.

Thor Equities has tempered its criticism since the mayor abandoned his original Coney Island proposal from November which called for the city obtaining 15 acres from area landowners instead of the current nine, but is still far from mollified.

"We're cautiously optimistic," said Stefan Friedman, a spokesman for Thor.

The same revision the made Sitt "optimistic," also enlarged the adjacent section of privately run entertainment retail — a change that turned Zigun, the founder of the Coney Island USA sideshow, from a supporter to a foe.

"The city worked for four years building consensus with a plan that had something for

everybody," he said, calling the new plan "a capitulation to Joe Sitt that won't wash."

Zigun will, no doubt, be front and center at Tuesday's hearing, where anyone can speak.

The public scoping meeting for Coney Island's re-zoning will begin at 6 pm on June 24 at Lincoln HS (2800 Ocean Pkwy., near West Avenue). Call (212) 312-4233 for info.



Starting pitcher Pedro (No Relation) Martinez looked strong during his four-pitcher innings in the Cyclones' 3-1 Opening Night victory.

CYCLONES STORM INTO SEASON For openers, Brooks take two from hated Yanks

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

The Brooklyn Cyclones are on pace to go 76-0.

The pride of Coney Island — who fell just two wins short of a league championship last year — jumped all over their hated, cross-Narrows rivals, the Staten Island Yankees, with back-to-back, home-and-away victories on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

A crowd of 8,240 — not a record for the eight-year-old franchise, but a packed sellout at Keyspan Park — enjoyed every minute of the home opener, from the National Anthem sung by kiddie rock legend (and Cobble Hill resident) Dan Zanes to the final Yankee ground-out that sealed the 3-1 victory.

On Wednesday night, the Brooks



traveled to Staten Island to give their enemies a 9-4 thrashing.

In both games, tough-luck third baseman Zach Lutz, who missed the entire 2007 season after breaking his ankle in the very first game, had two runs batted in.

"I'm just happy to be back," he said, though warning the Cyclones not to get fooled into thinking he'll knock in a pair of runs every game.

"No," he said, "but I am go-

ing to work hard all season for the fans."

Being back at Keyspan Park is, after all, always about the fans, echoed manager Edgar Alfonzo, who is beginning his third season as Cyclones skipper.

Despite a lifetime 106-52 record in his two prior seasons, Alfonzo said after the opening night game that he still felt nervous as he taped up the lineup card and signed autographs for the fans who

know him as "Fonzie."

"I always feel nervous," he said. "The fans here, they really want to win, so it makes you nervous. You saw me out there — I was screaming, I was arguing with the umpires. We want to win for these fans."

The nerves, he said, definitely did not have anything to do with the news from earlier in the day that Willie Randolph, manager of the parent club, the Mets, had been fired.

"Me and [Cyclone GM] Steve Cohen are fine, so I guess I'm safe for now," he said, laughing.

Judging by his team's inspired play over the first two games, he has nothing to worry about.

In the opener, Lutz started the scoring by smacking an RBI double.

See **CLONES** on page 6

IKEA IN BROOKLYN

Hook: Lines and sinking?

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Red Hook residents are bracing to see if Ikea will do what no other controversial project has been able to do — reinvigorate the hard-scrabble neighborhood or wipe it off the “up-and-coming” map for good.

The Swedish furniture company may be the granddaddy of all retail ventures, but it's been preceded by other commercial projects in recent years, like the opening of the Fairway supermarket and the city's ballyhooed cruise ship terminal. Then again, Red Hook has been a dumping ground ever since Robert Moses's Brooklyn-Queens Expressway cut

it off from the rest of South Brooklyn in the 1950s. What followed was the construction of the city's largest public housing project and, perhaps just coincidentally, a city plan to open a garbage transfer station in a port neighborhood with a rich history going back to the Revolutionary War.

Despite this colorful past, the opening of Ikea will, no doubt, bring thousands of people to Red Hook for the first time. Lacking any context, it would be tough to know whether Van Brunt Street, the commercial spine of the neighborhood, is a strip on the rise, with several trendy bars, good restaurants and eclectic



Old-timer Shakoy, 87, fought in World War II and now spends much of his time at the VFW post on Van Brunt Street, betting on horse races.

entrepreneurial businesses, or a boulevard of broken dreams, what with the empty lots and decrepit structures.

Just a few years ago, developers saw the cheap land in “Dead Hook” as ripe for the taking, a renaissance just waiting to happen. But its cachet fell, symbolized by the closing of the trendy bistro 360 and the rock club The Hook, as well as the stalling of a fancy apartment building on Inlay Street.

And, of course, the 20-minute constitutional to get from the heart of the neighborhood to the Smith-Ninth subway station didn't help make the area attractive to Manhattan-bound commuters, either.

Now, Ikea purports to be the lynchpin for a retail corridor from that might attract national giants like Bed, Bath and Beyond, Wal-Mart or Target to an area famous for Civil War-era architecture and, perhaps more important to those would-be retailers, a deep pool of unemployed within walking distance.

Depending on whom you ask, a round of retail development could ensure the area's salvation or demise, just as the cruise terminal, which opened two years ago, had its legions of detractors and boosters.

“It's gone from being a humble hamlet by the sea to being a consumer destination, and we can't handle it,” said Ellen Norris, a six-year resident, on Sunday afternoon in the Bait and Tackle bar on Van Brunt. She and several companions watching European Cup soccer said they dread the coming influx of 17,000 Ikea shoppers every weekend day.

One of her friends who has lived in the Hook for 20 years dating back to “when Red Hook was a war zone,” as he dubbed

the era of high crime and urban neglect — is ready to pack it in because he doesn't want to experience the crowds and consumerism concomitant with Ikea on Beard Street.

“I'm thinking about selling,” said Jens Veneman, a sculptor. Veneman said the only comparable time in local history that he's experienced was in the late 1990s when then-Mayor Giuliani proposed a new trash station in the neighborhood.

Though unified then, the same community is divided now over the latest flashpoint: Ikea.

“It's good for the neighborhood. It's going to create jobs they desperately need in the Houses,” said developer Greg O'Connell, referring to the Red Hook Houses, where roughly 7,000 of the area's 11,000 residents live.

Meanwhile, over beers at the Veterans of Foreign Wars clubhouse on Van Brunt Street, some of the old men didn't expect their neighbors in public housing to benefit from their proximity to Ikea's human resources office. They said they'd heard that many locals were fired after short stints at the Fairway



supermarket, another purported economic engine. And the cruise ship terminal also created hundreds of jobs fewer than the city

predicted. Bartender Sal Meglio said there would certainly be some short-term benefits, but thought

it would die down after customers got what they needed. “How many times do you need to buy furniture?” he asked.

The Brooklyn Paper IKEA BUREAU



BROOKLYN'S BEST IKEA COVERAGE

WATCH OUR PODCASTS

http://www.brooklynpaper.com Check out our video coverage at BrooklynPaper.com



Want a blow-by-blow account of Ikea's grand opening? Want to see people sleeping on line for two days to win a couch? Want to see a fake Swedish good luck ritual (rigged for the local pols)? Check out The Brooklyn Paper's video reports, which were filed daily by our Ikea Bureau Chief Gersh Kuntzman, Senior Ikea Bureau reporter Mike McLaughlin and Ikea Bureau staffer Ben Muessig.

Big blue box doesn't scare nearby mom-and-pop

By Jessica Firger
for The Brooklyn Paper

On the same morning that Ikea welcomed thousands of customers to its big box on Beard Street, Michael Sokol sold a couch.

It was nothing new, just what he's done with little respite for more than three decades. “The easiest thing is to sell, the hardest is to deliver,” said 61-year-old Sokol, who has owned Sokol Furniture on Columbia Street for over 30 years, and has about 10 to 12 customers in his store each day.

Sokol grew up around — and on — European upholstery in his father's store. With its 1970s-style paneled walls and non-signage, his store remains virtually the same since



Sokol Bros. Furniture Co. on Columbia Street between President and Carroll streets has been in business since 1974. It's just a mile from Ikea.

it opened between President and Carroll streets in 1974 — before the artists, before the brownstones, before Ikea.

Indeed, everything around Michael Sokol has changed. Fancy restaurants came. Solid a supermarket, converted condos and plenty of new housing. And business picked up for a time. But now, there's that big blue-and-yellow furniture and housewares emporium opening just a mile away.

Sokol says he isn't worried. “We have a good reputation in this neighborhood,” he said, crediting his father, who started selling housewares as a peddler in the 1950s.

“We serve a different kind of customer,” added Sokol. “Ikea is a big-box store. They come [but] they never last. But we're

always here, there are not many stores around for 50 years.” Sokol thinks that even if Ikea does succeed, there's room for the big Swede and the little guy from Sheepshead Bay.

Besides there are things Ikea can't offer that Sokol always has: free delivery on some purchases, furniture that shows up at your house already built, and an encyclopedic knowledge of every building in the neighborhood. (He's the kind of guy who can tell a customer if a coveted couch will fit up his building's stairwell.)

As he sat in his quiet showroom on Wednesday — Ikea's opening day — Sokol said that in addition to lots of customers, Ikea has something else he doesn't have. “I like their meatballs,” he said.



Amster-DAMNI A bike advocacy group is sponsoring a competition to design a New York version of this Dutch bicycle parking lot.

Two wheels good, four wheels bad

Bicyclists seek parking lot to aid Ikea runs

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Red Hook — haven for big box shoppers or the most bicycle friendly neighborhood in the city? Well, why not both?

One day before thousands of consumers were expected to drive through the neighborhood to the city's first Ikea, an urban planning group announced a \$10,000 contest to design bicycle parking and bike routes around Red Hook to help pedestrians and motorists co-exist.

From one perspective, Red Hook is ideal for velopedices because “there are a lot of one-way streets, and it's relatively flat and compact,” said Lisa Chamberlain, executive director of the Forum for Urban Design, the architecture group overseeing the winner-take-all contest.

But on the other hand, the neighborhood is bracing for an increase in traffic to Ikea's 1,400-space parking lot on Beard Street and a neighboring 1,200-car lot that will remain in service through Labor Day. Entrants will be judged on three areas. First, they need to design a bike garage, like the ones in famous in peddle-pusher paradise, Amsterdam, with space for at least 100 penny-farthings. The garage would sit beneath the elevated Smith-Ninth subway station — the closest one to Red Hook.

New York does not have even one such place where cyclists can lock up their bikes, sheltered from the harsh elements.

Second, the brainstormers will also have to link the parking lot with lanes weaving riders through Red Hook — and, perhaps most important, contestants will also be judged on the feasibility and cost of their proposal.

“Some design competitions are very pie in the sky, but we had a goal of not being so imaginary,” said Chamberlain.

There are signs that Mayor Bloomberg, who has promised hundreds of miles of new bike lanes as part of his PlaNYC agenda, might support the winning submission. The competition's judges include representatives from the Department of Transportation and the branch of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority that oversees buses and subways.

For more information, visit www.forumforurbandesign.org/bikecomp.html. The deadline for submissions is July 18.

IKEA HERE...

Continued from page 1

the light-hearted festivities gave way to formality: both the Swedish and American national anthems were sung and the countries' flags were solemnly raised before a crowd that included the Swedish consul (tentatively).

And, of course, no event would be complete without remarks from cheerleading Borough President Markowitz, who said that by opening in Red Hook,

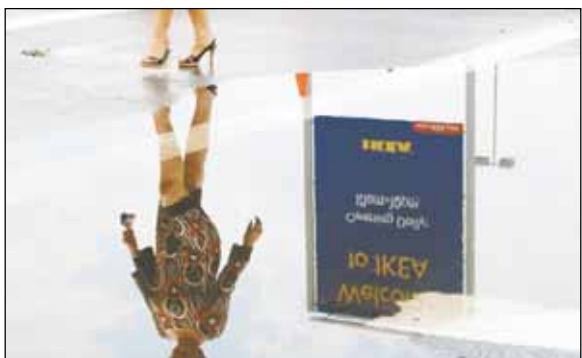
“Ikea got it right!”

The Beep, who has said in interviews that he is concerned about traffic in the neighborhood, didn't publicly delve into the sometimes-bitter fight that pit Red Hook residents who support the city's first Ikea as a source of jobs against those who fear the influx of thousands of shoppers every day and object to putting a big-box store so far from mass transit and highways.

Council Speaker Chris Quinn dismissed those concerns in her remarks. “They're going to be bringing in at least 500 jobs,” said Quinn, a likely mayoral candidate next year. “They also created an employment center because they don't want to just be in Red Hook, they want to be part of Red Hook.”

The store was also feted for creating a public esplanade along the water's edge — a feature that came about during the heated battle to win a city zoning approval that paved the way for Ikea as a 10th-century ship-repair facility.

Inclusion of six acres of public space, a preferential hiring process for Red Hook residents, funding for a job-training program and free water taxis to Manhattan



The opening day of Ikea's superstore on Beard Street in Red Hook featured hundreds of cheering employees, circus acts, bands, giveaways, the company's famous Swedish meatballs and, apparently, some sales of furniture.

and shuttle buses to nearby subway stations ultimately pushed the project over the top, though many opponents remain unsatisfied.

Before the hoards were allowed inside, a final ceremony was performed: Ikea presented local officials with a log and a saw, saying that such lumberjacking was a traditional Swedish good luck ritual. Not only was the claim's authenticity denied by the Swedish consulate, but the log itself was pre-sawed to make it easier on the elected officials (see BrooklynPaper.com for in-depth video coverage of the event).

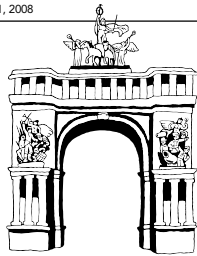


Hundreds were on line for the 9 a.m. opening.

ces rows of yellow shirts lined the aisles and cheered the early crowds that ascended the escalator to the main shopping floor.

In all the pageantry of the excitement, the build-it-yourself furniture or the meatballs.

“I came to Ikea to return this light that broke two or three months ago,” said Johnny Bisagni. “I've been holding onto it waiting for this Ikea to open up.”



THE STOOP

PARK SLOPE

PROSPECT HEIGHTS, SUNSET PARK
WINDSOR TERRACE, KENSINGTON

Mo Willems bails on our borough and heads north

Ladies and gentlemen, Mo Willems has left the borough.

The beloved kids author and Brooklyn fixture has moved to Massachusetts from Park Slope, the neighborhood that served as his creative font for more than 15 years.

"I've lived in New York City for 22 years [and Park Slope for 15], and realized I could try something else out," Willems told The Brooklyn Paper. "So, I thought, why not?"

The Emmy-award-winning "Sesame Street" writer and author of "Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale" and "Leonardo, the Terrible Mon-

THE BROOKLYN ANGLE

By Gersh Kuntzman

PIGEON POOPED

When asked to name all the awards he won before he lived in Brooklyn, the Holland native could list only one: "Participation Certificate for middle school choir, 1977."

The move away from Brooklyn is not without its irony, of course. In books like "Knuffle Bunny" and "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus," Willems reveled in urban life and used Brooklyn as a leitmotif.

Where many children's books advance a subtle suburban agenda, Willems's books are slyly urban. Indeed, Park Slope sites such as Grand Army Plaza, PS 107 and Prospect Park were major characters in "Knuffle Bunny" and its sequel, "Knuffle Bunny Too."

The departure of Willems is a significant blow to Brooklyn kids, who have become accustomed to his readings at local schools and at the Brooklyn Book Festival.

It has also sent shockwaves through the close-knit, but huge, community of writers of children's books who call Brooklyn home.

"Shockwaves? Perhaps for Mo," said Jon "Stinky Cheese Man" Scieszka, who suggested that his own success as an author had led to Willems's departure.

"You may have noticed that last year, I was named the Ambassador for Children's Literature by the librarian of Congress — and then Willems leaves town," Scieszka said. "There clearly was not room for the two of us."

Scieszka, who also authored "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs" and the forthcoming



When Mo Willems (right) told us he was leaving Brooklyn to move to Massachusetts, we asked him to express himself through his famous character, the Pigeon. Here's what Willems came up with. Funny, but neither the bird nor Willems looks all that sad.



What's up, doc?

New York Methodist Hospital in Park Slope won our coveted "Handout Photo of the Week" award for this scintillating picture of new urology department chief Dr. Ivan Grunberger treating a patient. The press release promised that Grunberger would continue his research on urinary tract issues, but also remain hands-on. We can see that!

"Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories About Growing up Scieszka," a memoir, said that Willems was leaving Brooklyn at his own peril.

"He will flounder," he said. "Frankly, none of us know why he's doing this."

Fellow little-person's author Ted Lewin said he'd miss Willems a little, but miss the author's Park Slope apartment more.

"He had a great deck," said Lewin, author of

"At Gleason's Gym" and many books with his wife, Betsy. "So, sure, it's a blow. But we'll survive."

"We don't like to see anyone leave Brooklyn, especially writers with such nice apartments."

Willems apparently appreciated the roasting from his book world pals, saying that in addition to "walkability and history," he would miss the local "eccentrics."

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JUNE RECOMMENDATIONS

Darrin Siegfried's Best Buys for June

Marquee 'Classic' Riesling
Australia's 'other white wine'! This is one of those dry, crisp Rieslings that makes you say "Yes! THIS is what I want in a glass of wine!" Tangy, crisp, lively and bright with enticing floral and fruit aromas, followed by flavors of green apple, spices and stewed peaches. **\$9.95**

L'Affiche Chardonnay
Made by Bruno Lafon ... one of the world's top winemakers! Try my latest discovery from the sunny south of France! Plenty of Old World "terroir" and minerality, but with the ripe, fresh fruit-forward style that is more common in New World Chardonnays. Textured and creamy on the palate. **\$9.95**

Terre di Sole Sangiovese
Pizza wine? Here it is! Made by two families from Verona who are known for their Valpolicella and Amarones, this ruby red wine has lovely aromas of ripe red plums and cherries. Showing more complexity than other wines in this price range, flavors of rich red berries, cherries and black pepper. This wine is very soft and easy drinking, and pairs well with so many dishes ... not just pizza! **\$9.95**

Monte de Luz Cabernet Franc
What's new from the Lesgourges family? My good friends from Bordeaux are making terrific wines in Uruguay, where quality wines have been made for over 150 years! Careful attention to the type of grapes planted, the soil, low yields and modern winemaking practices result in this elegant, delicious red! Rich and ripe tasting, complex and well balanced, this is a value not to be missed! **\$8.95**

Buy the 4-pack and save 10% **\$34.94**

Darrin's Discovery Wines for June!

Pine Ridge, Chenin Blanc/Viognier
The noble white grapes of the Loire & the Rhône meet in this delicious wine ... perhaps the most refreshing white I've tasted all year! Chenin has bright, tangy acidity as well as pear and citrus flavors, while Viognier offers lush, rich mouth feel with remarkable white peach and floral aromas. So much flavor and complexity at such a great price! My own Summer White! **\$13.49**

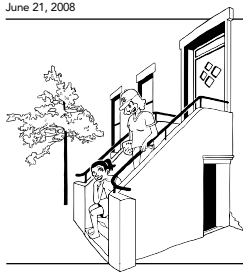
Château Porcieux, Côtes de Provence Rosé
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NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

WILLIAMSBURG



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Preservationists need Kent miracle

By Ben Muessig
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FORT GREENE

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BKLYN HEIGHTS/FT GREENE

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once a week, not two — a proposal that would end local drivers' twice-weekly scramble for parking.

Board members say the change is necessary to allow for more-frequent street cleaning — but the Department of Sanitation consistently ranks streets in the area as acceptably clean, a status that puts CB2 further down the list of neighborhoods slated to get cutbacks on "No parking" hours.

Before anything can happen, though, the Department of

Transportation must finish changing signs in Community Board 6. That process began this summer in Park Slope and will continue through the fall in Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Red Hook.

"We should get to CB2 neighborhoods within the year," the Sanitation Department's community affairs officer Ignazio Terranova told CB2 last week.



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Crook on wheels gets handbag

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

A British lady out for a stroll on June 15 lost her beloved Voodoo Dolls green shoulder bag to a mustache crook on a bike. The 25-year-old woman was walking down Seventh Avenue near First Street at around 9:30 am when the cyclist came flying by and snatched her bag. He got away with a heavy credit card and some cash.

Crime of fashion

A 24-year-old New Jersey man with a passion for designer fashion parked his car to head to a party on June 14 — but he never saw his wheels or his designer duds again.

The young man locked his blue sedan at around 2 pm, and returned around same time the next day to find it gone.

In addition the car, the man lost a Calvin Klein suit, Gucci sunglasses, Armani shirt, Kenneth Cole shoes, \$2,000 in jewelry, a digital camera and an iPod.

Out to dry

A dry cleaner on Fourth Avenue was robbed overnight on June 10.

The owner showed up to open his store, which is between 10th and 11th Streets, at 7:30 only to find the doors open, the broken locks sitting on the counter, and a customer waiting inside to drop off his dry cleaning.

The owner then headed to the back of his shop and found that \$800 had been taken.

Frowning jewel

A crook broke into a Fifth Avenue apartment early on June 10 — and left with thousands of dollars in jewelry.

The 26-year-old victim came home that night to her apartment, which is between Garfield Place and First Street, to discover that her jewelry box, which contained \$55,000 in earrings and necklaces, was gone.

Also missing was her bike, helmet and iPod.

POLICE BLOTTER

Good security

A young man was arrested on June 9 for returning stolen items from a Flatbush Avenue drug store.

Cops believe that the 20-year-old man had been stealing and returning items from the store, which is near Seventh Avenue, since April 27 — and had raked up \$2,791.02 with his scheme.

— Jessica Firger

62ND PRECINCT

Bensonhurst

Young thugs

A threesome of teen hoodlums went on a mini-crime spree on June 11 — but it ended with them wearing locking bracelets.

According to police, the terror trio approached its first victim at around 2:30 pm on Bay Parkway and Bay Ridge Avenue, throwing the youngster to the ground and snatching items from his backpack.

Just 15 minutes later, the same gang approached another kid and demanded his PlayStation game. The victim refused, so one of the perps forcibly took the popular device from his pocket.

All three teens criminals — two 14-year-olds and one 16-year-old — were later caught by police.

Child's play

A thief snatched an 11-year-old girl's backpack right off her body on 65th Street on June 11.

The youngster told police that she was approaching 17th Avenue at around 4:30 pm when a man grabbed the bag.

He got away with an iPod and Sidekick mobile phone, then ditched the sack while fleeing.

Three-on-one

Three young hoodlums attacked a man on Shore Parkway on June 13.

The victim said he was walking between 14th and 15th avenues at 2 pm when the trio approached and began punching his face and kicking him in the back, causing cuts and bruises.

The thieves then took the man's cellphone and wallet — which had \$6 in it.

Face slash

A man was hit four times in the face with a sharp object during a bloody robbery attempt on Avenue O on May 9.

The victim told police he was approached by the young perp at the corner of West Ninth Street at 10:45 pm, when the thug demanded the victim's money.

The victim didn't hand it over, so the thug pulled a blade and slashed his victim across the forehead, leaving three wounds on the right side of his face.

Rob the cradle

A woman's purse was stolen from her baby's stroller on Benson Avenue on June 10 — but cops quickly collared the thief.

The victim told police that she followed the perp after the 11:30 am incident — which took place at Bay 31st Street — and saw him throw her wallet under a car.

After recovering her tossed wallet — minus the cash — the woman was able to identify the perp to police at the scene.

Mug 'n' run

A man was brutally mugged on New Utrecht Avenue on June 14.

The victim was approached by the perp at 7 pm on the corner of 71st Street, where the thug punched him in the face and cut his ear with a sharp object.

The thief took off with his wallet, which contained \$140.

Safe?

A woman's West 12th Street apartment was robbed when a perp got into her bedroom safe and took \$2,500 on June 14.

The victim told police she returned to her apartment, which is between Highlawn Avenue and Avenue S, at 7:30 pm to find her bathroom window pried open and the money in the safe gone. Some jewelry was also missing.

Caught in the act

A man returned to his 64th Street home at 9:30 pm on June 15 and saw three men in a nearby alley holding garbage bags filled with his stuff.

The man confronted the perps, who had just finished taking items from his residence near Bay Parkway, and the trio dropped the bags and fled.

When two of the thieves returned to the scene to retrieve the bags, they were nabbed by police.

— Marie Cunningham

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge

Bad breaks

It was a big week for burglary, with at least five break-ins. Here's a round-up.

• A thief busted into an 89th Street apartment on June 10 and took more than a grand. The victim told police that she left her home, at the corner of Third Avenue, at 12:30 pm and returned two hours later to a broken door and \$1,200 missing, along with two cellphones.

• A thief stole a man's jewelry from a Fifth Avenue apartment on June 9. The victim told cops that the burglar entered through a rear window of the apartment, which is near Irving Avenue, between 9 and 11 pm. In addition to some ID cards, the thief got 10 pieces of gold jewelry.

• A thief ransacked a 96th Street apartment on June 11 — and found what he was looking for: \$4,000 in jewelry. The victim told police that she left

her home, which is at the corner of Third Avenue, at 8 am and returned at 3 pm to find her bedroom and kitchen in disarray. Missing were seven gold necklaces and two watches.

• A thief stole a digital camera from a Third Avenue apartment on June 11. The victim told police she left the unit, between 91st and 92nd streets, at 11:30 am and returned six hours later.

• A woman's 91st Street house was burglarized of more than \$10,000 in cash, jewelry and electronics while she was at work on June 11. The victim told police she left her home, located between Ridge Boulevard and Third Avenue, at 6 am and returned at 7 pm to find \$6,000, six watches, two necklaces and a digital camera gone.

Conn-Ed

Two men and one woman posing as Conn-Ed employees robbed a 14-year-old girl in her 86th Street apartment on June 12.

At around 8 pm, while talking to the young victim in front of the building, between Third and Fourth avenues, the men reached into her front pocket and stole her wallet.

The thieves got \$15.

Quadrupled up

Four hoodlums mugged a man on the corner of Fourth Avenue and 90th Street on June 10.

The victim told police that he was approached by the robbers around 4 am. After popping him in the right eye, the thugs made off with two bags of clothing that the man had been carrying.

— Marie Cunningham

77TH PRECINCT

Prospect Heights

Topiary terror

Shrub-hating vandals overturned foliage at a Bergen Street building on June 14.

The 67-year-old victim told cops that she returned to her home, which is between Grand and Classon avenues, at 2 pm to find that her garden was in complete disarray.

Rock, roll, crash

A 28-year-old man was caught throwing a rock through a Lincoln Place window on June 15.

The man threw the rock through the lobby window at 11:30 at night, then fled the building, which is between Vanderbilt and Underhill avenues.

The thieves got \$15.

In an unrelated incident, a 51-year-old woman reported that an unknown object came crashing through her living room window on June 14.

The woman, who lives in a seventh-floor apartment at 51 Johns Place between Washington and Underhill avenues heard the crash at around 5 pm.

Take out

Thieves busted into a Washington Avenue restaurant on June 15.

The owner of the joint, which is between Prospect and Park places, told cops that the crook must have broken the lock and pried open the door after closing time late on June 14.

The perp got away with \$410.

Road rage

A trucker and a cyclist got into an altercation on Dean Street on June 12.

The 25-year-old biker said he had stopped at a light at the corner of Classon Avenue at approximately 3 pm when the trucker backed into him.

When the biker complained, the got out of his rig and whacked the biker on his head, cops said.

— Jessica Firger

'Green Chuch' fans in Ridge seek Golden rule from Marty



Bay Ridge preservationist Victoria Hofmo delivered a handful of petitions to state Sen. Marty Golden.

By Ben Muessig

The Brooklyn Paper

The preservationists fighting to save the so-called "Green Church" are calling on a higher power to rescue Irvington Avenue's venerable house of worship — state Sen. Marty Golden.

Five opponents of the Bay Ridge United Methodist Church's plan to tear down the 108-year-old historic edifice visited the Ridge lawmaker's Fifth Avenue office on June 12 to deliver a petition calling on him to intercede.

"He helped with the [Key Food], maybe he can help here, too," said Victoria Hofmo, a preservationist who heads a committee to save the church, referring to Golden's negotiations with Walgreens, which will soon take over the Key Food space on Third Avenue and 95th Street.

"Sen. Golden believes it will take a financial angel to save the [church]," said John Qualigione. "If an individual or a corporation is willing to come forth and make a large investment, they can still save it."

Hofmo handed over 16 signatures in the first batch of petitions and said that an additional 200 signatures will be delivered to Golden's office.

Unlike Golden, Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) has taken a strong stance in support of preserving the "Green Church," whose dwindling congregation plans to tear down the difficult-to-maintain building to make way for a smaller house of worship funded by condos.

Golden has remained flip-flopped — but a spokesman said the Republican does believe in miracles.

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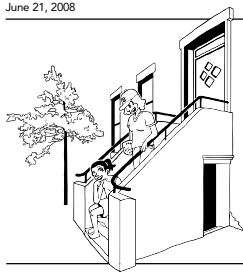
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Downtown Brooklyn won't get new alternate-side parking regulations until at least the fall — after the city finally finishes installing new signs in Park Slope that have allowed that neighborhood to have a parking reprieve all summer.

Community Board 2, which covers Downtown, Brooklyn Heights, DUMBO, Fort Greene and Boerum Hill, has long lobbied to have its streets cleared

once a week, not two — a proposal that would end local drivers' twice-weekly scramble for parking.

Board members say the change is necessary to allow for more-frequent street cleaning — but the Department of Sanitation consistently ranks streets in the area as acceptably clean, a status that puts CB2 further down the list of neighborhoods slated to get cutbacks on "No parking" hours.

Before anything can happen, though, the Department of

Transportation must finish changing signs in Community Board 6. That process began this summer in Park Slope and will continue through the fall in Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Red Hook.

"We should get to CB2 neighborhoods within the year," the Sanitation Department's community affairs officer Ignazio Terranova told CB2 last week.



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Sidekicks are thieves' new best friends

84TH PRECINCT

**Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO
Downtown-Boerum Hill**
At least two more punks stole the popular Sidekick cellphones last week. Cops said the phones are lucrative for robbers because it is easy to reuse them by just buying a new data card. Here's a round-up:

• Cops arrested a 14-year-old after he stole a 23-year-old woman's phone on June 9. Patrol cops saw the woman chasing the punk along Jay Street near the Myrtle Avenue promenade, screaming, "He stole my cellphone!"

Cops chased the boy and recovered the phone.

• A thug punched a Boerum Hill woman and stole her phone on June 13 on Hoyt Street. The boy approached her from behind at around 1:40 p.m., punched her face and kicked her in the stomach, and then grabbed the phone and ran off down Pacific Street, cops said.

Grand theft Bklyn

A Manhattan man, 2004 Honda Civic on June 11 was stolen from a spot on Garden Place near Jerusalem Street between 2:45 and 6:45 p.m. The thief also got a satellite mapping system and a digital camera.

City stats show that car theft is up 125 percent this month — and 27 percent overall this year.

Smokin' hot
A burglar snatched a padlock and broke into a Lawrence Street bodega on June 10, taking thousands in smokes.

The perp covered a security camera with a black plastic bag around 11 p.m. and then stole \$2,800 worth of cigars, cigarette cartons, phone cards, digital music players and \$750, cops said.

A clerk at the bodega, which is at Willoughby Street, noticed the broken padlock and front gate open when he came to work the next morning.

Distraction

Two punks mugged a 22-year-old man on Bridge Street, grabbing his bag, wallet, iPod and sunglasses.

The man told cops that he was near the York Street subway station at around 10:30 a.m. when one perp distracted him by asking, "Where do you live?"

Meanwhile, the other grabbed his bag, cops said.

— Sarah Portlock

88TH PRECINCT

**Fort Greene-Clinton Hill
Criminal minded**

A hoodlum abandoned his stolen car on June 11 after he was ejected from a woman inside a Clinton Avenue apartment building on June 8 after first roughing her up in a stairwell.

The victim had just dropped off her son at his babysitter's apartment in the building between Myrtle and Willoughby avenues at 91st Street when the would-be mugger dragged the woman onto the staircase from the hallway and threw her against the wall.

The struggle for control of the 35-year-old woman's pocketbook ended when the sound of a door

POLICE BLOTTER

opening upstairs frightened the crook into running away.

Teen angst
Police caught two adolescent females who attacked and robbed a woman on Emerson Place on June 10.

The 16-year-old and 15-year-old, aged 13 and 14, repeatedly struck the 25-year-old victim in the face before stealing her phone at 4 p.m. near the corner of Myrtle Avenue.

A cop apprehended the suspects after hearing the crime reported on police radio.

Spare change

A vending machine operator's truck was burglarized while he was making a delivery to Long Island University on June 11.

The burglar wasn't a junk food junkie though; he was after a satchel of coins inside the snack man's van, which was parked on University Plaza, between Willoughby Street and DeKalb Avenue from 3 to 3:30 p.m.

Batmen

Violent rogues beat up a man with their fists and a baseball bat on Carlton Avenue on June 7.

The victim, 31 years old, told police that four thugs attacked him between Atlantic Avenue and Fulton Street at 1:25 a.m. The assailants injured his right shoulder and hand and caused swelling above his left eye, but he did not seek medical treatment.

— Mike McLaughlin

76TH PRECINCT

**Red Hook-Cobble Hill
Carroll Gardens**

Shots misfired

Police arrested a teenager on June 10 after a witness reported he was shooting off a firearm in Carroll Gardens. Only later did the cops discover the hoodlum was trying to blow them.

A civilian called police at 5:11 p.m. to report that 17-year-old had been flashing a piece to a group of friends at the corner of Second Place and Henry Street. Later, that informant rode in a patrol car with two officers and helped point out the suspect.

The armed suspect fled when cops approached him and, at one point during the chase, he turned to face the officers and pointed his gun at them, before discarding it under a parked car.

Later, when experts examined the retrieved weapon, they discovered that two bullets had jammed in the chamber — indicating that the youthful criminal had tried to shoot the police in hot pursuit.

Cops apprehended the Man-

Tough call

An abusive boyfriend stole his lady friend's phone after an argument and skirmish on South Elliott Place on June 13.

A verbal squabble between the paramours escalated with the male half of the pair grabbing the victim by the arms, dragging her into the bedroom and flinging her onto the bed. The display of force at 5:45 p.m. inside the apartment between Lafayette and DeKalb avenues, fortunately caused no physical harm.

The misogynist ran off with the phone, but the woman is more interested in getting a restraining order than the brute.

Shoplifting spree

Shoplifters hauled away a bizarre combination of merchandise from an Atlantic Avenue supermarket on June 14 after a security guard tried to thwart their thieving ways.

The criminal pair, in possession of butchered meat and name-brand lotion and deodorant were stopped by the store watchman at 3 a.m. Not to be deterred, the hoodlums bashed the man's arm, allowing them to flee the grocery between Fort Greene Place and South Portland Avenue in a gray Honda Accord which had been reported stolen earlier in the day.

— Mike McLaughlin

94TH PRECINCT

**Greenpoint-Williamsburg
Gunpoint, Bklyn**

Masked gunmen mugged three women as they walked home from a bar on June 15.

Two crooks confronted the women when they were on Meeker Avenue between Kingsland Avenue and Monitor Street at around 2:55 p.m.

"Empty your pockets," demanded an armed crook in a black cap whose face was obscured with a white bandana.

The women, thanks to the cover their wallets and the thugs ran off, getting away with IDs, credit cards, two BlackBerries and \$86.

Subway villain

A vicious brute mugged a woman as she waited for the L train at the Morgan Avenue station on June 15.

The crook got into the station at around 10:25 a.m. by begging a passerby to give him a free swipe. Once inside the station, which is at the corner of Harrison Place and Morgan Avenue, the thug grabbed his 23-year-old victim by the neck, throwing her to the ground, punching her in the face and ribs.

"Give me your iPod," he demanded.

The crook fled the station with the victim's iPod and her wallet, which contained about \$45.

Rotten apple

A crook stole a laptop from a McKibbin Street apartment on June 12.

The thief struck after 9 a.m. — when the 22-year-old victim left her apartment — and 12:30 the next morning, when she returned computer to find her laptop missing from the kitchen table. Cops say there were no signs of forced entry to the apartment, which is between Seigel and Henry streets.

Metro mugging

A mugger held up a 33-year-old man on the corner of Metropolitan and Morgan avenues on June 14.

The crook grabbed the victim from behind at around 3 a.m. as he walked his home on Front Street, forcibly removing his cellphone, debit card, IDs, and \$60.

— Ben Muessig

hattan resident on Dwight Street in Williamsburg.

Adios!

Hoodlums pounced on an unattended purse in a popular Tex-Mex restaurant on Court Street on June 12.

The victim briefly left her pocket book inside the eatery between Warren and Baltic streets at 9:30 p.m. when she stepped outdoors. A few minutes later, she noticed that her bag had been stolen.

The 26-year-old woman told police her missing bag contained \$30, a bunch of credit and debit cards, designer eyeglasses and a ring.

— Mike McLaughlin

90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick

Broked

A crook masquerading as a real-estate broker scammed a Manhattan woman out of \$2,300 that she thought would help her secure a Times Square apartment.

The crook told the 39-year-old woman that she needed to put down as much money as she had to reserve an apartment between Knickerbocker Street and Porter Avenue on June 4. But on June 11 — after a week without contact with the broker — she alerted police.

Nanny no no

An no-good nanny stole an Apple computer, a digital camera, a shirt and a check from a South Third Street woman.

The victim says that the nanny snatched the goods from the apartment, which is between Berry Street and Bedford Avenue, between April 1 and June 13.

Copper bandits

Crooks stole seven copper cable lines from a rooftop cellular antenna atop a South Fifth Street residence, snagging \$2,250 of the valuable metal.

Thieves struck between April 16 and June 13, taking six copper wires and one copper plate from the rooftop, which is between Hooper and Henry streets.

Subway villain

A vicious brute mugged a woman as she waited for the L train at the Morgan Avenue station on June 15.

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— Ben Muessig



Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights will become a public park — complete with sod — on Sundays in July under a local business improvement district's proposal.

Montague St on grass!

By Sarah Portlock

The Brooklyn Paper

Montague Street could look more like Paris than Brooklyn Heights, thanks to a plan to close the street on Sundays in July, put out café tables and even install a lawn.

The Montague Street Business Improvement District has proposed turning three blocks between Clinton Street and the

Promenade into a grassy, table-lined "Summer Space."

And business owners are already getting excited.

"[Summer] is slower for both business and diners," said Jen Jinks, manager of Housing Works Thrift Shop. "It will bring a lot of business to the area, and it's a nice idea for the community."

The grassy plazas would not cut off traffic on the busy side

streets. As such, the bike advocacy group Transportation Alternatives said that the plan would not wreck havoc on car traffic. In fact, it would bring more people to the street, mostly by subway, foot or bike.

"It will also encourage Sunday sales for our merchants," said BID Executive Director Chelsea Mauldin. "People can come out, pick up a coffee, read the paper, and enjoy the sunshine."

Thou not steal

A thug heartlessly snatched the purse of a woman praying inside a Manhattan Avenue church on June 14.

The victim had been praying for about an hour in the church, which is between Milton and Noble streets, when the unholly hoodlum put her in a chokehold and tried to grab her purse.

"Give it to me, give it to me," he demanded.

The crook yanked the bag from the victim, knocking her to the floor and leaving her with cuts on her arm and knee. The sinner escaped with the purse, which contained \$300 and a set of keys.

Cha-ching!

Crooks broke into a Russell Street nightclub on June 12, snatching cash and the register in which it sat.

The thugs broke into the club, which is near Norman Avenue, by busting through a side door between 1 and 9 a.m.

Once inside, they grabbed an HP laptop, four bottles of top shelf liquor, \$1,000 and the cash register.

Armed mug!

A slim thug with a silver handgun mugged a 37-year-old woman as she walked home from the train on June 10.

The skinny crook confronted her victim at the corner of Jackson and Humboldt streets at around 9:50 p.m.

"Give me your wallet," he demanded, revealing the pistol.

The woman forked over a pink wallet, and the mugger ran off with her IDs and credit cards.

Hung up

A thick-skulled thief grabbed a phone in McCarren Park, but when he tried to extort his victim, he dialed up a trip to jail.

The victim forgot his phone near the corner of Bedford Avenue and Lorimer Street at 8:45 p.m. on June 8.

At 10 a.m. the next day, the victim called his own phone and the thief picked up and offered to meet his victim.

But at the confluence, the thief refused to fork over the phone and instead receiving a \$70 finder's fee. Cops nabbed the 31-year-old suspect later that day.

Bloody crime

A self-professed gang member robbed a 14-year-old of his Sidekick phone on June 12.

The thug — who was wearing a black baseball cap adorned with a skull and a black do-rag, cops said — confronted his victim near the corner North Eighth and Havemeyer streets at around 11:40 a.m.

"I got a gat," the crook said, making an apparent reference to a firearm. He later told his victim that he was a member of the Bloods gang.

The victim forked over the T-Mobile phone — and its unlock code — and the crook fled.

The next day, a crook stole a Sidekick from a 15-year-old girl as she walked to school.

The girl told cops she was near Manhattan and Driggs avenues at around 8:10 a.m. when the crook struck. He also got her MetroCard before he fled through McCarren Park.

Grabbed

A crook broke into a Chevy sedan on June 11 and ran off with everything he could carry.

The crook got into the car, which was parked Conynseley Street between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street, through an open rear window, or through the doors, which the driver might have left unlocked. The thug grabbed a Sony digital camera, IDs and credit cards at some time between 7 and 8:20 p.m.

In an unrelated car theft, a crook broke into a car parked on the corner of North Eighth Street and Kent Avenue at around 10 p.m. June 6, snatching credit cards.

— Ben Muessig

Hung over at Hank's

By Sarah Portlock

The Brooklyn Paper

A developer's bid to build a seven-story condo building over Hank's Saloon in Boerum Hill was unanimously blocked last Wednesday by Community Board 2.

The proposed tower at the corner of Atlantic and Third avenues requires three zoning changes before it could be built — and all three were rejected by the board's vote.

The city Board of Standards and Appeals will have the final say later this summer.

Current zoning allows for a four-story, 6,600-square-foot residential building — but developers Emily Fisher and Roll Grimsd said they need more than double that square footage to cover increased construction costs for their high-end "green" building.

At the June 11 meeting, concerned neighbors demanded that the board hold firm.

"The zoning regulations are in place to protect the 'brownstone' neighborhoods and these should be respected," said Sue Wolfe, president

of the Boerum Hill Association.

Grimsd spoke of "compromise."

"We would like to... discuss ways in which a viable building can be built [that is] a benefit, not harm, to the neighborhood, but still profitable for the developer," he said.

Formerly the popular American Indian ironworkers' hangout, Doray Tavern, Hank's Saloon is expected to remain on the ground floor even after tenants move in, Fisher and Grimsd said.

The proposed loft-style condominium would feature a brownish-yellow brick facade that match the surrounding Atlantic Avenue Special Zoning District.

Such special districts were created for a reason, testified Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association president Sandy Balboza.

"The [area] is under unprecedented pressure from all types of development," Balboza said. "The limitations of height, bulk, setback, and use regulation were thoughtfully overlaid to protect our districts' urban fabric, scale, and character while still encouraging development."



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Victory docs can't help car wreck victims

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Doctors at the soon-to-close Victory Memorial Hospital couldn't help the victims of a brutal car wreck in front of the 92nd Street medical center last Friday morning — because they weren't allowed to.

The Dyker Heights hospital has been forced to turn away patients with serious injuries since the emergency room closed last month, but the gravity of the closure never seemed so tragic — or so real — until a sedan upended a Jeep at the corner of 92nd Street and Seventh Avenue at around 8:55 a.m.

Hospital staff heard the ac-

cident and rushed outside, but because Victory's emergency room is now an "urgent care" center that can only treat minor injuries, doctors could do nothing but watch, employees said.

"We were all just standing there, we couldn't do a thing," said Robert Bonacci, an anesthesiologist at Victory. "It was just horrible. If something like this happened before [the ER closed], we would take them in, no matter what."

Unable to treat the two victims, hospital staff looked on as the fire department, police, and paramedics placed a male victim in a neck-brace and attached him to an IV. A female

victim was in better shape, Bonacci said.

An ambulance showed up about 20 minutes after the crash, he added, and transported both victims more than five miles

from the doorstep of Victory to Beth Israel Hospital in Flatlands. Both patients were in stable condition this week, a Beth Israel spokeswoman said.

The crash actualized the

greatest fears of many Victory employees: that with the closure of the ER and the pending shutdown of the hospital itself at the end of the month, Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst and Dyker

Heights residents won't receive the care they need.

"This was bad, but what's going to happen when someone has a heart attack or a stroke and we can't treat them?" Bon-

nacci asked.

Bill Guarinello, former chair of Victory's board of directors has the same concern, and he is already pointing fingers.

"We're going to be hold-

ing everyone from the governor on down accountable for all of the deaths that happen in south Brooklyn because without Victory, we are severely under-

served," he said.



Two cars collided in front of Victory Memorial Hospital last Friday, but the injured were transported to hospitals miles away because Victory's emergency room is closed.

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Windows We Are: School we are not!

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

This land is your land — and that land is my land, says the owner of the Bay Ridge glass shop Windows We Are.

The family business, which flung open its doors — and windows — for presumptive presidential candidate John McCain in April, has been more reluctant to welcome city officials who want to tear it down to build a new school.

Scott Turnbull, an owner, has kept the School Construction Authority at bay since February, when he found out that the city was considering booting his store from its 21st home on Fifth Avenue between 91st and 92nd streets.

Turnbull told The Brooklyn Paper that he is planning to allow officials to look at his property for a new school or annex for PS 104, which is across the street from his shop.

But he wonders why the city is considering displacing his shop, plus a veterinarian, a bakery, and a soon-to-open law office instead of building on a tree-covered lot next door to the K-8 grade school or in the yard behind the building.

"We understand that schools have to grow, we just can't figure out why they want to build on our land," said Turnbull, who claims that the city has threatened his shop with eminent domain. "Why not redevelop your own land before you take ours?"

A spokesman for the School Construction Authority said the agency is considering five locations for the school, but would not elaborate.

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July 2	Time Was (Oldies 60's-70's)	Marine Park (Fillmore Ave)
July 8	Narrows Community Theater	79th St & Shore Road
July 9	Alive N Kickin (Hit Tighter N Tighter)	Marine Park (Fillmore Ave)
July 11	Brooklyn Keys (Oldies & disco)	Parkville (65th St between 9th & 10th Ave)
July 14	Frankie Marra (#1 Classic Rock Bar Band)	83rd St & Shore Road
July 15	Girls on Top (All-girl dance band)	Dyker Park (86th St & 14 Ave)
July 16	M.A.S. Swing Band	Marine Park (Fillmore Ave)
July 22	Charlie Thomas Drifters	79th St & Shore Road
Hit Songs...Up on the Roof, Under the Broad walk, This Magic Moment, Save the Last. With the opening act: "Nu Millennium" Acapella Soul Group		
July 23	Eclipse (Classic Disco and Top 40 Dance)	Marine Park (Fillmore Ave)
July 25	The Mankind Band (Classic Rock & Oldies)	Avenue U & Van Sicklin
July 29	Trammps featuring Earl Young	79th St & Shore Road
Hit Songs...Disco Inferno, Where the Happy People Go, Hold Back the Night, etc. With the opening act: "Morning Side Drive" Disco Dance Band		
July 30	Kenny Vance & Planotones	Marine Park (Fillmore Ave)
Hit Song...Looking for an Echo		

Shows continue in August. Visit www.senatorgolden.com for a complete listing.

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Graduation special!

By Emily Levin
for The Brooklyn Paper

It's that time of the year again, folks — graduation season has come and gone. But before we send the newly minted grads out into the real world (or, "The Real World" on MTV — filming next month on Wolloughby Street), let's recap how our area's major colleges and universities honored the class of 2008.

Pratt Institute

May 9, Grand Mall on the Clinton Hill campus, 1,000 graduates

Aimee Oz, valedictorian: "We have been given the best possible training. Our imagination has been guided, our skills perfected. Today, like runners in a relay race, we take up the challenge of self-determination and the will to carry onward."

Thomas J. Cahill, president and CEO of Studio in a School Association, commencement speaker: "It is so important, why does it play such a small role in public education? Leave here with a promise that when you land in your communities, you'll bring back the hope that art education can be a major part of the schools."

Long Island University
May 15, Athletic Field, Downtown, 1,777 graduates

Jonathan Kuhr, valedictorian: "So today, let us recognize our achievement, let us celebrate this

next step in our life. ... Let us imagine our greatest achievements and then recognize that they can be even greater. Let us visualize the change we wish to see in the world and then let us become it."

David J. Steinberg, president:

"Universities are affirmations of life. They speak to new opportunity, to the optimism of a new generation, to the world of the future, even while studying the past and preserving its cultures. Every one of you has the opportunity to quest for and discover knowledge, to receive and give love, to seek beauty and to find the myriad types of fulfillment, including familial, financial and professional."

St. Francis College

May 27, Brooklyn Marriott, Downtown, 300 graduates

Jessica Minotti, valedictorian:

"I looked around the table where I was sitting with my friends, and there were people from all different backgrounds: Puerto Rican, South American, Irish, Italian, Armenian, Polish, just to name a few. This is the magic that floods our halls every day. Our school is like a mini United Nations. We celebrate our differences and we all support one another and treat each other with respect. That is the spirit, the essence of St. Francis College."

Brendan Dugan, incoming president:

"The cornerstone of your education is the principle of Franciscanism, founded on concepts like faith, hope, humility, love, caring, hospitality, peace and most importantly service."



Graduation ceremonies at (clockwise from top) St. Francis College on Remsen Street in Brooklyn Heights, Brooklyn College in Flatbush, Long Island University in Downtown (where broadcaster Tavis Smiley spoke) and the Pratt Institute in Clinton Hill.

"I have had the privilege of studying alongside people of all ages, races, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds. ... No matter which path you followed, you should be proud of your accomplishments."

Leonard Lopate, WNYC talk show host, speaker:

"A liberal arts program is a lot more than just the subject you're majoring in. You may have wondered over your time here whether there'd ever be an opportunity to apply some of the

knowledge and skills you've picked up in your required and elective classes. But don't be surprised if those opportunities do knock. It's at those moments that you realize just how worthwhile the years you've spent on all sides of this quadrangle have been."

Polytechnic University

June 2, Avery Fisher Hall, Manhattan, 987 graduates
Mohammad Makhdoum,



valedictorian:

"As proud individuals, we are ready to graduate and leave Polytechnic University. By graduating, we proved to ourselves and to others that we have the potential for achievement. We must continue to fulfill our potential."

Jerry Hultin, president:

"I encourage you to enter this next stage of your life with a spirit of adventure. Set your stan-

dards high and challenge yourself. Set bold goals for yourself, both personal and professional. Be hungry for success. Uphold your personal values, make decisions, accept responsibility and stay focused on your goals."

New York City College of Technology

June 3, Madison Square Garden, Manhattan, 1,912 graduates
Stacy Cruickshank,



valedictorian:

"Let us go out into the world even bolder than when we first walked through the doors. ... And let us be ambassadors of our alma mater, the college through which we developed life-long friendships and relationships, the college that equipped us with

skills and placed us one rung higher on the ladder to realizing our dreams."

Borough President Markowitz, commencement speaker:

"As a Brooklynite, a New Yorker and an American, you owe back. That means become involved in your neighborhoods. Volunteer your time, your expertise and all of that know-how you learned at City Tech. In life you can wait for things to happen, or you can make things happen. As a graduate of City Tech, you have style, moxie, pizzazz and chutzpah! And most important of all, you've got the Brooklyn attitude! You're gonna make things happen!"

Medgar Evers College

June 7, College amphitheater in Crown Heights, 975 graduates

Sherona Barnaby-Daley, valedictorian

Gov. David Paterson, keynote speaker:

"I wish for you all that you desire in your careers, but it is the responsibility of our government to make sure that you have equal opportunities. ... As you go forward in your lives, don't forget where you came from. Don't forget Medgar Evers. Don't forget the younger people who will be coming to this school. Contribute to the school. Come back."

Borough President Markowitz, guest speaker:

"As Medgar Evers graduates, I know you've got the style, pizzazz, moxie, and chutzpah. I know that you'll make things happen. You are the best of Brooklyn and the best of New York."

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EYE of the STORM

The world's best Cyclones coverage

Zach back to lead Clone attack

The Brooklyn Paper

Now we know why we were so excited about Zach Lutz on Opening Day last year!

A promising fifth-round draft pick in 2007, Lutz was the Cyclones' starting third baseman — but he broke his ankle in the very first inning and was out for the entire season.

But in his Opening Day, Part 2 on Tuesday night, Lutz showed Cyclones fans that he was worth the wait.

He got the 'Clones on the board in the bottom of the first with a laser-like double to left, then showed his battling side, scraping out a walk in a 16-pitch at-bat in the third.



Switch-Pitcher

The Staten Island Yankees have two switch-hitters on their roster — pretty standard fare.

What's not so standard is that they also have a switch-pitcher on the team, Pat Venditte. Look carefully at this Yankee roster and you'll see an "S" listed in the column for pitchers' throwing arm.

"I started throwing when I was 3-years-old," Venditte, of Omaha, Neb., told The Brooklyn Paper's Eye of the Storm coverage before his Baby Bombers took on the Cyclones in the season opener on Tuesday night.

"It was my father's idea; he took handprints and sent them to Mizuno in Japan — and in a few months, they sent back a special six-fingered glove that I could wear on either hand."

The 6-foot-1 Venditte pitched in high school, and then was a walk-on candidate at Creighton University. A reliever, he was drafted in the 20th round this year after compiling a 9-3 record and an ERA of 3.34 — all the while using both arms.

He did not pitch in the season opener against the Cyclones, but

then in a few days they got used to him.

"My body and arms are used to the workouts, but pitching right-handed (his natural side) does take more out of me because I throw harder that way," said the affable hurler.

Venditte is used to all the attention that his unusual situation brings.

"Teammates are really curious when I first join a team, but then in a few days they get used to it, and everything seems normal to them," he said.

There have been only a few ambidextrous pitchers in baseball history. Greg Harris pitched with both hands on Sept. 28, 1995, the first major leaguer to go both ways since Tony Mullane did it in 1893 for the Baltimore Orioles.

As Venditte stood talking near the Yankees' dugout at KeySpan Park, he took all the attention in stride. What seemed to really excite him was over the left-field wall and he pointed in that direction.

"What I really want is to go there — Nathan's," he said with a hungry grin.

Perhaps he'll order two hot dogs and eat them simultaneously — using both hands, of course. — Ed Shakespeare



Sandy the Seagull handed out schedules and MetroCards to passengers on the B and Q train on Tuesday as the beloved — and garbage-eating — seabird made his (her?) way to KeySpan Park on the Cyclones' opening day.

The Play's the Thing

with Ed Shakespeare

A tale of two boroughs

In "A Tale of Two Cities," Charles Dickens proclaimed, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."

But a modern version of his novel (albeit called "A Tale of Two Boroughs") could be written about the professional baseball teams of Brooklyn and Queens.

Let's start with the worst of times — and that we travel up the Jackie Robinson Parkway, where the underachieving Mets are below .500, the team is crumbling faster than Shea Stadium, and manager Willie Randolph (until this week's firing, of course) had to keep one eye on the field and the other pecking at the guillotine above his neck.

After letting Randolph squirm for weeks, the Mets flew him to California, allowed him to manage a Monday win over the Angels, and then dropped the blade on him in a hotel room after midnight.

Even though the team was apparently seeking to avoid bad publicity, the Mets' cruelty to Randolph created a public-relations disaster of epic proportions.

Now for the best of times: Against the backdrop of the Mets' debacle, the team in Brooklyn took the field on June 14 for its annual open workout for the media and the faithful — and the event demonstrated that the 15 miles separating Shea Stadium and KeySpan Park sometimes comprise an unspannable chasm.

While the Mets' situation has become public spectacle, the Cyclones' prospects for the 2008 season have the public abuzz.

After last season's cataclysmic collapse, one in which the division-leading Mets lost a seven-game lead with only 17 games left in the season, the Mets' organization has been exorcised for over eight months.

This season's poor start has given talk radio fodder to rip the Mets' farm system for the perceived inability of the team to call up ready reserves from the minors.

With new CityField opening next April, the Mets want to make the 2008 season memorable — and sell plenty of tickets to their new joint. Here's where Brooklyn can benefit: The Cyclones can take some of the heat off the big club.

If the Brooklyn roll over the New York-Penn League in the regular season, the negative talk about the Mets' farm system will evaporate. Should Brooklyn go on to take the league championship, the Met organization will get even more positive publicity.

Could it be that the Mets will lead up Brooklyn with talent this year instead of at Savannah, the next rung up the ladder, and a far-off place to which the Mets are not likely to establish any long-term connection?

Last year, Brooklyn went 49-24 in the regular season, and made the championship series (though the Brooks lost in two games to Auburn).

But remember, these are the best of times for Brooklyn: "The talent on this year's team is far better than on last year's club," said returning Cyclones manager Edgar Alfonzo.

Particularly strong is the infield. Third baseman Zach Lutz broke a bone in his foot in last year's Opening Night and missed the entire season. The 2007 Division III National Player-of-the-Year is back for a second try, looking stronger than ever. Indeed, he was the offensive star on Opening Day, driving in two of the Cyclones' three runs (see front-page story).

Apparently temporarily bothered by a sore elbow, Reese Hayes will be at shortstop. The first-round draft pick hit .359 at South Carolina University and slugged 18 homers this year.

Second base features Josh Satin who hit .379 and blasted 18 homers for the University of California-Berkeley last season. At first, if he signs a contract, will be Ike Davis, son of former big league pitcher Ron Davis. Another first-round pick, Davis is a lefty hitter who hit .385 with 16 homers and 76 RBI for Arizona State last season. Davis, negotiating for big bucks, is a big talent.

With this infield, the lineup should be first rate, but how about the hurlers?

Coach Hector Berrios is starting his fifth year as pitching guru — and he's had the Cyclones in the top three in team ERA every year he's been in Brooklyn.

This year, the talent should make his job easy: Brad Holt, a first-round pick, will join a squad that includes Pedro (no relation) Martinez and relievers Wendy Rosa and Yuri Santana.

So don't worry, Cyclones fans, about the "Tale of Two Boroughs" going on between Queens and Brooklyn. For KeySpan Park regulars, it really is the best of times.

CHANNELING THE BARD

Each week, Ed Shakespeare, the bard of Brooklyn baseball, will take a page from his ancient ancestor and add a bit of iambic pentameter to all our lives. This week's contribution is called, "Clean Slate":

The season starts, the slate begins so clean.
The squad returns a few, though most are new.
From Kingsport or drafted, hustling on the scene.
They're starting fresh, and so, dear friend, are you.

CLONES...

Continued from page 1

ble to left in the first. He later knocked in another run with a nice piece of hitting in the fifth, poking a ball to right to drive in a run from third.

Great starting pitching from Pedro "No Relation" Martinez (4 1/3 innings, no earned runs) and relief by fireballer Wendy Rosa (2 2/3 innings, four strikeouts) and closer Yuri Santana (1 inning, two Ks) kept the Yankees off balance all night.

On Wednesday, an hourlong rain delay didn't dampen the Cyclones fire. A 10-hit barrage paced the team to a 9-4 win.

Again, Lutz knocked in the first run — again with a first-inning double.

But the Clones broke open the game with a five-run third inning. After two singles, Yankee pitchers walked Lutz, then hit the next two batters and walked Josh Satin. A Jefferey Tatroff single and a Cesar Corraldo SAC fly capped the frenzy.

The Cyclones added three insurance runs in the ninth, one on a double by — you guessed it — Zach Lutz.

Starter Tim Stonach got the win with five innings of strong pitching, yielding just four hits.

The Cyclones' Thursday night game against the Yankees was too late for this edition. Always check in at www.BrooklynPaper.com for our full "Eye of the Storm" Cyclones coverage.



BEFORE & AFTER: Third baseman Zach Lutz in 2007 (ouch!) and 2008 (yes!).

But Cyclone fans should not be fooled into thinking they'll get two RBIs every night out of the 6-foot-1 righty.

"But I am going to work hard all season for the fans," he said.

— Gersh Kuntzman

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

June 21, 2008

In the mix

Clover Club — and cocktail hour — arrive on Smith St.

By Adam Rathe
The Brooklyn Paper

Julie Reiner is a cocktail rock star. The Park Slope resident owns a set of swanky Manhattan lounges and is known worldwide for her spirit smarts and magical mixing. So, when it came time to launch her next project, Reiner looked no further than her own backyard for a place to serve her high-class cocktails.

On Wednesday, The Clover Club — Reiner's newest bar — opened its doors and its bottles at 210 Smith St. in Carroll Gardens, confirming the strip's status as not just a dining destination, but a drinking one as well.

The idea for me of running a place full of real New Yorkers was very pleasant," Reiner told GO Brooklyn just days before the bar opened. "Platoon [Lounge] has been open for five years and the crowd in Manhattan has changed. I loved the idea of opening a place for the people and less of a tourist crowd."

Despite the recent opening of upscale bars like Williamsburg's Hotel Delmano, Prospect Heights' WeatherUp and The JakeWalk, just down the street, Reiner said, "There's a lack of classy, swanky cocktail lounges [in the neighborhood]. There are a couple small places that

you can go to for a decent cocktail but nothing on the scale of my other places in the city. It was something that I was looking for and wasn't really finding so much, so I thought, 'Why not open one myself?'"

Now that the doors are open, locals are in for quite a treat. The bar will focus on "classic cocktails" — ranging from \$10 to \$12 — with fresh-squeezed juices and seasonal ingredients, and Reiner will also be serving punch — out of antique punch bowls, of course — for groups of four or six.

"It's my answer to bottle service," she said, "which I think is ridiculous."

The bar's signature drink, and Reiner's favorite, is the "Clover Club Cocktail," made of gin, dry vermouth, raspberry spirts, lemon juice and egg whites.

Additionally, the front windows of the bar will open onto Smith Street — outdoor tables are also in the works — so a drink and snack can be made into a meal with a hefty side of people watching.

For all of the naughty hoosh and epicurean ingredients, though, Reiner hopes that her bar will be a neighborhood joint and destination for folks weary of having to take the subway for an upscale drinking experience.

"People call me a 'mixologist,' but I just like to stick with 'bartender,'" said Reiner. "At my



Lucky 'Clover': Uber mixologist Julie Reiner opened The Clover Club on Smith Street on Wednesday. Among the summer cocktails the famous bartender is serving at her new lounge is the Market Street Julep (above).

NIGHTLIFE

The Clover Club (210 Smith St. at Baltic Street in Boerum Hill) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. The bar is open Monday through Thursday, from 5 pm to 2 am, Fridays, from 5 pm to 4 am, Saturdays, from noon to 4 am and Sundays, from noon to midnight. For information, call (718) 855-7929.

While cocktails are the focus here, the Clover Club won't be without food. Noted chef Gavin Citron (formerly of Jolo and Maroon's Smoke House in Manhattan) consulted on a menu that's to include small plates of fried oysters, steak tartare, caviar-shrimp toast, miniature lamb burgers and steak sandwiches with horseradish sauce.

For all of the naughty hoosh and epicurean ingredients, though, Reiner hopes that her bar will be a neighborhood joint and destination for folks weary of having to take the subway for an upscale drinking experience.

"People call me a 'mixologist,' but I just like to stick with 'bartender,'" said Reiner. "At my

other bars, we're very well known for the cocktails we do. It's definitely serious mixology, but my goal is to have a bar that's really fun as well. In our [professional] community, it's gotten overly serious to where it's not fun, so we're trying to bring it down a notch and still put out a high quality product."

It's exactly what she's been doing for years, but the idea of being able to deal with her neighbors, and not the velvet rope and limo crowd, is truly the most refreshing ingredient for Reiner.

"There are a lot of people in Brooklyn who want really great cocktails and a place they can hang out in that's doing drinks to a very high standard," she said. "There wasn't a lot out here, so there are a lot of people who are very excited to have it and to not have to go into Manhattan on a Friday or Saturday night. I know that's what I'm always looking for."

THEATER

Be the star



According to actress Gyda Arber, the only thing more attractive to an audience than seeing a star is being one.

"I've always loved going to interactive theater events, but they were all ultimately disappointing to me, because they didn't allow you to really be in a show," she told GO Brooklyn.

So, earlier this month she launched "Suspicious Package" at The Brick Theater in Williamsburg.

"Suspicious Package" features four players who act out a film noir with the help of a digital music player — it feeds them lines, plays inner monologues and displays video flashbacks — as they traipse through the neighborhood, unraveling the 45-minute story.

The show, which begins at The Brick, ends in a dramatic scene at the Lazy Catfish, a local bar that serves as scenery as well as the host of the cad party. Players can recount the experience over a drink — included in the ticket price — and dish with Arber about how the experience played out.

"I don't think anyone has come," said Arber, "who hasn't had a total blast."

The Brick Theater presents "Suspicious Package" at 4 pm on June 21, 22, 28 and 29. Up to three shows will be held each day. Tickets are \$20. For information, call (866) 811-4111 or visit www.suspiciouspackage.com.

— Adam Rathe

THEATER

'Kong' queen

Like a giant gorilla tearing up the streets of New York, Pamela Sneed's one-woman show — "Kong," at Bath Beach's Harry Warren Theatre through June 29 — is taking on and tearing down the passivity and lack of responsibility that she said define theater today.

"Kong" evolved out of what I thought was a need for some protest work," said Sneed. "Whether they love it or hate it, it's stirring people up. That's the most important part of activism."

The Cobble Hill performance artist, who considers the underlying purpose of her work to be "enacting social change, based on 'Kong' — co-directed by Barbara Parisi — on her reaction to the 2005 "King Kong" film.

For Sneed (pictured), the film evoked anger at the racial stereotypes that the gorilla can represent as well as sympathy for the innocent monster. As she worked on her piece, the symbol grew to encompass themes that range from Rwandan genocide to 9-11.

In a post-9-11 world, Sneed said, the King Kong story takes on a new meaning.

Kong becomes symbolic of the American people: a great Goliath that has been taken down by tiny planes," she said.

Ryan Repertory Company presents "Kong" through June 29 at the Harry Warren Theatre (2445 Bath Ave. at Bay 38th Street in Bath Beach). Tickets: \$20, \$18 for seniors. For information, call (718) 996-4800 or visit www.ryanrep.org.

— Kate Ray

FITNESS

Fit camp

Most people think of the Brooklyn Bridge as a landmark and traffic thoroughfare, but for Ariane Hundt, the 125-year-old icon had even more untapped potential.

"The Brooklyn Bridge is my favorite place in the city," she said. "One day I was wondering how I could combine that setting with fitness, and the idea of a boot camp came to me."

So earlier this month, Hundt, a personal trainer and nutritionist by profession, launched the "Brooklyn Bridge Boot Camp," an hour-long workout — comprised of sprints and exercise stops — that spans the bridge.

"Expect to work really hard and expect to see results quickly," said Hundt.

"Brooklyn Bridge Boot Camp" meets Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 am and Saturdays at 8 am and 9 am at the Manhattan-side entrance of the Brooklyn Bridge. Classes are \$15 for first-timers, \$20 for each additional class. For information, call (646) 354-0039 or visit www.brooklynbridgebootcamp.com.

— Adam Rathe



Exposed to the elements: Digital photographer Tim Connor documents the wildlife in Carroll Gardens in Safe-T-Gallery's new show "Brooklyn au Natural."

It's a 'Natural'

Artists cultivate Brooklyn's flora and fauna in new show

By Kate Ray
for The Brooklyn Paper

A photograph of a life-size, fake deer stares mournfully at us from a tiny yard in Carroll Gardens.

Bits of moss and grass, collected from all over the borough, are pressed into an ab-

stract collage that is literally Brooklyn on paper.

These are just a couple of artworks featured in "Brooklyn Au Natural" — a visual exploration of the interface between nature and the city — a show which opened at the Safe-T-Gallery in DUMBO on Thursday.

The eight Brooklyn artists and one Man-

hattan printmaker are here to show us that, as urban as our borough may feel, nature has not been completely banished.

"It's not that hard" to find nature all around us, Don Burnmeister, the show's curator told GO Brooklyn. "It's there at every street corner. It's creeping through the sidewalks, Nature's just itching to take over again."

To put together his summer show, Burnmeister brought together artists from wildly different backgrounds, with various styles and media, who each address the topic of the natural and urban coexisting in Brooklyn.

Among the artists are Tim Connor, a digital photographer with a series on Brooklyn yards; Juliette Conroy, who created a photo-assembly out of hundreds of shots of her hosta lily taken over the course of a year; and Asya Dodina and Slava Polishchuck.

See **NATURAL** on page 12

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY
June 21

Mer-madness
Freaks, families and flip-flops will converge for the 26th annual "Mer-mad Parade." Kicking off at West 10th Street and the boardwalk, the parade swims up to West 16th Street, over to Surf Avenue and back down to West 10th. Due to the sun, surf and sequins, we recommend wearing plenty of sunblock.

2 pm, West 10th Street and the Coney Island boardwalk. \$10 per marcher. For information, call (718) 372-5159 or visit www.coneyisland.com.

SUNDAY
June 22

Kid rock
Park Slope teens Care Bears on Fire play an all-ages rock show today at Southpaw, and even if the under-21 set cramp your style, it would be foolish to miss it. After the success of last year's debut record, "I Stole Your Animal," it won't be much longer before the band's only home-town shows are at Madison Square Garden.

5 pm, Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave. at Stirling Place in Park Slope). \$10. For information, call (718) 230-0236 or visit www.spounds.com.

WEDNESDAY
June 25

'Freed' read
Whether or not you've made your summer reading list already, stop into BookCourt tonight to catch Park Slope author John Michael Cummings read from his debut novel, "The Night I Freed." A historical coming-of-age story set in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. We give Cummings points for providing an activity that's both educational and air-conditioned.

7 pm, BookCourt (163 Court St. at Pacific Street in Cobble Hill). Free. For information, call (718) 875-3677 or visit www.bookcourt.org.

THURSDAY
June 26

'Choice' art
Tonight, the 440 Gallery launches its fourth annual "Small Works Show," offering attendees the chance to take in Charles Bentz's painting "Bicycle Path" (pictured) and the one-square-foot multimedia pieces — and judge them for a "People's Choice" award. We're always oohing and aahing at art openings, and this time our opinions will matter!

9 pm, 440 Gallery (440 Sixth Ave. at Ninth Street in Park Slope). Free. For information, call (718) 499-3844 or visit www.440gallery.com.

FRIDAY
June 27

Champion season
We sure do love that weatherman, even though he jumped from the local news to "Good Morning America," but our adoration doesn't hold a candle to the band that named itself Sam Champion. The rock group is performing tonight at "Celebrate Brooklyn!"

7 pm, Prospect Park band shell (enter park at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Park Slope). Free. For information, call (718) 965-8999 or visit www.celebratebrooklyn.org.

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NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SAT, JUNE 21

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

MERMAID PARADE: Coney Island hosts the nation's largest art parade. Participants pay \$10; viewers free. 2 pm, West 10th Street and the Boardwalk, Coney Island. Parade is followed by the Mermaid Parade Ball, \$15, 5:30 pm to 11 pm. Child's Building, Boardwalk and West 21st Street. (718) 372-5159.

SEED GIVE-AWAY: Artisan Market Wild Flower Seed Give-Away. 9 am to 5 pm, Fort Greene Park, DeKalb Avenue sidewalk perimeter. (718) 855-8775. Free.

OPEN PADDLE: 9 am to noon, Pier 62 Boat Center, 200 Avenue N. (718) 241-5653. www.seabagcaneels.org.

CANOE THE LULLWATER: Urban Park Rangers take a tour of Prospect Park's Lullwater. Arrive early; first come, first served. 11 am, 12:30 pm and 2 pm. Sign up begins at 10:30 am. Audition Center, enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400. Free.

WALKING BROOKLYN: Adrienne Grout, author of "Walking Brooklyn," leads a walking tour of Greenpoint. Noon, call for meeting place. (718) 383-0796. Free.

WILD FOOD: Hunt for June berries in Prospect Park with naturalist/author "Wildman" Steve Brill. \$15, 5:10 kids. 1 pm. Meet at Prospect Park's Grand Army Plaza entrance. (718) 835-2153.

WALKING TOUR: Guided walking tour of workplaces featured in the exhibit "Made in Gowanus." Highlights include Cienfuegos cattery, Ernest Porcetti stained glass and J&M special effect studios. 2 pm, Cienfuegos, 543 Union St. (718) 222-4111. Free.

PERFORMANCE

MAKE MUSIC NY: Opera on tap sings out-calls as part of the Make Music New York festival. 2:30 pm, Fort Greene Park, Myrtle and Washington avenues. (718) 299-4024. Free.

RYAN REPERTORY: presents "Kong," a new performance work. \$20, \$18 seniors. 8 pm, Van Munching Theater, 2445 Bath Ave. (718) 996-4800.

BARGE MUSIC: Classical music program featuring works by Schubert, Mozart and Chopin. \$40, \$15 students. 8 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

DANCE: Brooklyn Arts Exchange Dance Artist-in-Residence Sam Kim presents a work-in-progress, "Self Surgery." \$15, \$8 low-income. 8 pm, 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 852-0018.

PARLOUR JAZZ: Solo piano with Liz Magness. \$20 includes refreshments. 8:30 pm, sets at 8 pm and 10:30 pm. 11 Vandeventer Ave. (718) 855-1981.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: Tri Warszawa, a theater company from Poland, presents "Macbeth." Production features a two-story set, video walls and special effects. \$35 and up. 9 pm, Tobacco Warehouse, Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, Enter at Water and Dock streets. (718) 254-8779.

OTHER

ARTISAN MARKET: hosted by Fort Greene Park Conservancy. 9 am to 6 pm, Fort Greene Park, DeKalb Avenue sidewalk perimeter. (718) 855-8775.

FLEA MARKET: at Church of the Holy Spirit. 9 am to 4 pm, 8117 Bay View. (718) 337-0412.

ENTREPRENEUR WORKSHOP: Network with other entrepreneurs, find business support services and learn about free classes and programs. Brooklyn Public Library's business branch. 11 am, 250 Cadman Plaza. (718) 623-7000. Free.

INDIE MARKET: offers hand-made items. 11 am to 7 pm, Smith Street between Union and President streets. (347) 407-1182.

RELAY FOR LIFE: 10th anniversary event to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. 1 pm to 10 pm, Fort Hamilton High School, Narrows Avenue between 83rd and 85th streets. (718) 237-3951.

FLATBUSH BBQ: Traveling Mariachi Band performs at the outdoor patio of Flatbush Farm. Menu includes lobster rolls, gazpacho, hot dogs, shrimp, octopus and more. 3 pm to 6 pm, 76-78 St. Marks Ave. (718) 622-3276.

FLEA MARKET: at St. Bernardette School. 4 pm to 10 pm, 82nd Street at 13th Avenue. (718) 837-3402.

WRITING GROUP: Barnes and Noble hosts an idea writing group. 5 pm, 100 Court St. (718) 244-2996. Free.

SUN, JUNE 22

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

DISCOVERY TOUR: Take a canoe or kayak trip for up to 20 minutes within the protected park area and then help clean the shoreline. 10 am to 2 pm, Louis Valentino Park, Red Hook. (718) 676-6458. Free.

RED HOOK BOATERS: Paddlers get to enjoy the protected cove of Louis Valentino Park. 10 am to 2 pm, Park Pier, Collyer and Van Brunt streets. www.redhookboaters.org. Free.

PARK HIKE: Urban Park Rangers host a guided walk through the ravine in Prospect Park. Noon, Audition Center, enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400. Free.

PERFORMANCE

GOSPEL JAZZ BRUNCH: at Bush Baby. No cover. Noon, 1197 Fulton St. (718) 636-5336.

CIRCUS SUNDAYS: Professional acts from around the world. \$18, \$10 kids. 1 pm and 4 pm, Waterfront Museum, 290 Conover St. (877) 238-5596.

CHORALE MUSIC: Brooklyn Conservatory Chorale performs "Scroog and Laughter, Tragedy and Comedy." \$10, \$5 students and seniors. 3 pm, Old First Reformed Church, Severly and Carroll Street. (718) 623-3300.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Self Kites in a program of traditional gridiron football. Penryn rock musician Heale performs. \$3. 6 pm, Prospect Park band shell, Prospect Park West and Ninth Street. (718) 855-7882.

DANCE: Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center presents "Souls of Our Feet: People of Color Dance Festival." Today, Abraham in Motion and The Smoke, Lilias and Jade Arts Initiative perform. \$15, \$12 students and seniors. 7 pm, Long Island University's Kumbha Theater, Flatbush

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CIVIC CALENDAR

(718) 751-0038 for info.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24
78th Precinct Community Council. Monthly meeting 78th Precinct station-house (65 South Ave., at Bergen Street in Prospect Heights). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 636-6410.

Brooklyn Preservation Council. On the agenda: The "Green Church" in Bay Ridge, the Carroll Gardens Landmark survey, and the Brooklyn Underground Railroad. Brooklyn Borough Hall (209 Joralemon St., between Court and Adams streets in Downtown Brooklyn). 6 pm. Call (718) 596-5410 for info.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25
Community Board 2. Youth, Education, and Cultural Affairs committee. Long Island University (corner of Flatbush and DeKalb avenues in Downtown Brooklyn). 6 pm. Call (718) 643-3027 for info.

Boerum Hill Association. Monthly meeting. Belair Church (corner of Atlantic Avenue and Bond Street). 7 pm. Call (718) 928-2425 for info.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Newsroom@BrooklynPaper.com.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26
Community Board 6. Landmarks and Land Use committee. On the agenda: Update on the city's "Public Place" plan. PS 32 (317 Hoyt St., between Union and Sackett streets in Carroll Gardens). 6 pm. Call (718) 648-3027 for info.

One Brooklyn Bridge Park (corner of Furman and Joralemon streets in Brooklyn Heights). 6 pm. Call (718) 522-0193 for info.

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BREAKING CHEWS

By Kate Ray and Adam Rathe
The Brooklyn Paper

Who will be the biggest cheese in Brooklyn? On Sunday, **Stinky Bldyn**, the Smith Street cheese emporium, will host its second annual cheese-eating contest, in which fromage fans will chomp as much Cantal as possible in two minutes for the championship belt — and the glory of course.

And as much as we all love the stuff, it takes real dedication to win this contest. Last year's champion, Red Hook resident Oliver Butler, ate almost half a pound of the semi-hard French cheese to secure his victory and the coveted winner's belt, but he didn't stop there.

"I ate cheese for dinner the night I won," he told GO Brooklyn. "It was one of the prouder days of my life."

And while Butler will be competing again this year and didn't want to reveal too many of his secrets, he did have this advice for would-be contestants.

"The biggest thing on your mind when you're eating cheese fast is at what point you can't swallow anything down," explained Butler. "It's not about how big your stomach is, it's just getting a sense of how the cheese is in your mouth."

Think you've got what it takes to compete? Register with Stinky at (718) 522-7425. Spectators should converge in front of Smith & Vine at 3 pm on June 21 at 268 Smith St. to watch the event unfold.



Man or mouse? On June 22, Smith Street's Stinky Bldyn will host its second annual cheese-eating contest. Last year, Red Hook resident Oliver Butler (right, with Borough President Marty Markowitz) was named the champ, after he chomped nearly half a pound of Cantal.

cel produce and savory spices.

"People were crying out for something with flavor," said Coe, who said that he uses only "honest" ingredients and spices, but never butter, cream or heavy sauces.

Beginning last week, Coe started offering a "tropical fruit ceviche," a vegetarian cold soup with mango, papaya, pomegranate and passion fruit, flavored with basil oil, lime juice and a hint of chili, as well as a "Brooklyn version" of fish and chips — fillets of boneless cod with a Brooklyn Beer batter, served with homemade mayonnaise.

Autour du Monde in Clinton Hill is welcoming a new chef and a new menu just in time for the summer. Chef Frank Coe — a Cork, Ireland native who has cooked around the world from London to Singapore — will be showcasing his twist on international flavors with a completely new menu that stresses fresh, local produce and savory spices.

Meanwhile, having conquered Brooklyn Heights, Chinese mainstay **Lichee Not** has opened a second location at 8321 Fifth Ave. in Bay Ridge.

Last week, Prospect Heights eatery **Abigail** added butch to its menu of high-end comfort food. Featuring dishes like baked eggs with vegetables, roasted tomatoes and Bellerose cheese and chocolate.

Rachael Ray is hosting the Burger Bash in DUMBO on Oct. 10.

almond brioche bread pudding, the eatery gives locals and folks visiting the nearby Brooklyn Museum an excuse to linger in the neighborhood just a bit longer.

If 25-cent cones from the corner deli aren't sating your thirst for frosty treats, check out **ICY NYC**. Formerly located in the East Village, this Popcorn stand is known for using unusual and not-often ingredients — the ginger-apricot ice is a big crowd pleaser — and has just opened its first outpost in the borough, at 905 Church Ave. in Kensington.

Fort Greene legend **Cake Man Raven** is having a party in honor of you! The Eighth Annual Family & Friends Appreciation Day is Sunday, July 20, at the store at 708 Fulton St., and the confectionery is promising stills and walkery, drop-ins, among other attractions.

That all sounds nice, but we never need an excuse to gobble down a slice of that famous red velvet cake.

Brooklyn will be well represented at the **Farm Food Show**, a gathering of over 2,300 food vendors that will take place on June 29 and 30 in Manhattan. The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the "Real Brooklyn" booth, featuring locally made products like Brooklyn Fudge, Brooklyn Petros hot sauce, frozen treats from Wine Celler Sorbet and King of the Sea fish.

"Real Brooklyn" is an initiative dedicated to celebrating and promoting Brooklyn-made food products. "It is all locally produced and locally available — that's kind of a big trend in food. Brooklyn's got amazing cheese right now."

ham, mushrooms, mozzarella and artichokes. For dessert, there are your Italian staples — tiramisu, Italian ice cream — but if you're looking for something different, order a Nutella pizza with pine nuts and shaved white chocolate. Luna Rossa also offers 30 Italian wines and six beers. Patio seating available. Open for lunch and dinner, Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Mondays.

Marco Polo
345 Court St. at Union Street,
(718) 852-5015.
www.marcopoloitaly.com
(AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$13.95-\$22.95.

One of Brooklyn's most elegant dining rooms, Marco Polo has won numerous food and wine awards since its opening in 1983 and boasts valet parking, a formally dressed wait staff and a sophisticated menu. "Our clientele is a destination clientele," said owner and veteran restaurateur Joe Chicco. "They come from everywhere." Marco Polo has an Italian menu that includes an array of hot and cold appetizers, soups, salads, homemade pasta, fish, chicken, veal, steaks and lamb chops. For dessert, Bruno Mille. The dessert wagon offers pastries, cakes, tortes, fruit, sorbet, cheese plates, most plates, and rolled into a crepe and topped with chocolate sauce. For dessert, the strawberry flambe, made with fresh berries, champagne and sugar, is heated and then rolled into a crepe and topped with chocolate sauce. For dessert, the strawberry flambe, made with fresh berries, champagne and sugar, is heated and then rolled into a crepe and topped with chocolate sauce.

Panino'teca 275
275 Smith St. at Sackett Street,
(718) 227-2722, www.paninoteca275.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$9-\$17.

Owner-chef India Ennis has been feeding Brooklyn with her varied, Roman-style menu since 2000. Characterizing the cuisine as "classic Italian," she offers soups, salads, cheese plates, most plates, bruschetta, entrees and paninis.

Ennis loves the house-cured tuna salad with potato, artichoke, capers and arugula. For dinner, she called the oven-baked macaroni with tagliatelle cheese, porcini mushrooms and prosciutto "super delicious." Open Tuesday through Sunday for dinner and for lunch on weekends. Closed Mondays.

Frankie's 457
457 Court St. at Fourth Place,
(718) 403-0033,
www.frankies457.com (Cash only) Entrees: \$9-\$17.

This cozy Italian joint opened in November 2007, winning the hearts of many with its authentic brick oven pizzas. There are 15 on the menu, all crafted by chef and Naples-native Salvatore Nigrello. A popular choice is the "quattro stagioni," topped with

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Michael Stuart
WILLIAM CEPEDA'S GRUPO ESSENCIA | ZEMOG EL GALLO BUENO
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Bud Light Music Series

FREDDIE MCGREGOR
SOUL STEPS
WAFU Concert Series
THUR 7/10 7:30

BRAZILIAN GIRLS
MIRANDA | TICKLAH
SAT 7/12 7:30
BETH ORTON
MATT MUNISTERI

BROOKLYN

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: CARROLL GARDENS

Apartment 138
138 Smith St. at Bergen Street,
(718) 658-0556 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa for dinner only).
Entrees: \$14-\$26.

"We really have something for everybody on the menu," said chef Simon Lange, who described Apartment 138's menu as "classic modern comfort food." The sandwiches, he said, are 138's specialty and range from the grilled vegetable with red peppers and goat cheese, to the grilled steak sandwich. Prior to its opening in 2004, Apartment 138 was a two-story apartment for a family of four and still retains the cozy feeling. Walk in the front door and you face the extensive, fully stocked bar, with tap beers and dozens of wines, along with the bartender's recommended white or red sangria. There is dining space beyond the bar, and downstairs features a room complete with pool table and arcade games — and a newly renovated garden, open for meals this summer. Open for brunch, lunch and dinner daily.

Brooklyn Bread Cafe
426 Court St. at Second Place,
(718) 403-0233 (Cash only).
Salads, sandwiches and wraps: \$5-\$12.

"Everything here is baked on the premises," boasted Brooklyn Bread Cafe owner Sal Scudiero. With its fresh breads and stuffed wraps, the cafe aims to please everyone. Try the vegetarian sandwich, with grilled portobello mushrooms, artichokes, grilled zucchini, roasted peppers, pesto and Tuscan olive oil, served on a hero, wrap or regular roll. Or get the signature "tuna bella" — Italian tuna with a creamy cheese

Chestnut
271 Smith St. at Sackett Street,
(718) 243-0049.
www.chestnutbrooklyn.com (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$17-\$26.

Chestnut has been serving up New American fare since 2003. Head chef Daniel Eardley, who frequents the Hudson Valley to forage for wild mushrooms, changes his menu frequently, but almost always includes the "pan sot" ("pot-belly" in Italian) pasta, filled with ricotta and braised greens and served with an herb salad, as well as the hanger steak, topped with fingerling potatoes and Valdese cheese (a type of Spanish blue) in wine sauce. For dessert, try the chocolate "budino," a chocolate custard, drizzled by a charming wood fence painted with a floral mural. Open for dinner, Tuesday through Sunday, and for brunch on Sundays. Closed Mondays.

Grave
570 Henry St. at Carroll Street,
(718) 645-0301.
www.crawfish.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$15-\$28.

This tiny restaurant, run by chefs Debbie Lyn and Marco Mopelli since 2003, offers salads and sandwiches in addition to appetizers, entrees, pasta and desserts. Fresh Italian mozzarella, or D'Amico's own, popular roast beef. But wait, don't forget to get a pound of D'Amico coffee to go. Open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 7 pm, Saturdays until 6 pm, and Sundays, from 10:30 am to 3 pm.

Silver anniversary Marco Polo is celebrating its 25th year with a special menu that includes the Charlotte di Venezia dessert.

D'Amico Foods
309 Court St. at Degraw Street,
(718) 875-5403,
www.damicofoods.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Sandwiches: \$3.50-\$7.50.

D'Amico Foods has been imbuing the neighborhood with the smell of freshly roasted coffee since its opening in 1948. "We roast right on the premises," owner Frank D'Amico told GO Brooklyn. "The smell goes out of the store." To find out why the 2007 New York City Gourmet Marketplace Zagat Survey named D'Amico's coffee number one, try the Red Hook, the strongest blend, or the milder White Christmas with cinnamon and nut flavors, or any of the other 80 fresh-roasted flavors offered. And while you're at it, get that coffee cold, or try the frozen cappuccino, new for the summer. For those seeking a snack to go with their java, there are muffins, cakes and cold-cut sandwiches, such as prosciutto (the owner's favorite), fresh Italian mozzarella, or D'Amico's own, popular roast beef. But wait, don't forget to get a pound of D'Amico coffee to go. Open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 7 pm, Saturdays until 6 pm, and Sundays, from 10:30 am to 3 pm.

Luna Rossa Restaurant and Pizzeria
552 Court St. at Ninth Street in Carroll Gardens, (718) 875-1384, (Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10.95-\$17.95.

This cozy Italian joint opened in November 2007, winning the hearts of many with its authentic brick oven pizzas. There are 15 on the menu, all crafted by chef and Naples-native Salvatore Nigrello. A popular choice is the "quattro stagioni," topped with

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	Bus stop at 2nd Ave	7:05	7:05
	Bus stop at 3rd Ave	7:10	7:10
	Bus stop at 4th Ave	7:15	7:15
	Bus stop at 5th Ave	7:20	7:20
	Bus stop at 6th Ave	7:25	7:25
	Bus stop at 7th Ave	7:30	7:30
	Bus stop at 8th Ave	7:35	7:35
	Bus stop at 9th Ave	7:40	7:40
	Bus stop at 10th Ave	7:45	7:45
NORTH FORK LINE	Bus stop at 1st Ave	7:00	7:00
	Bus stop at 2nd Ave	7:05	7:05
	Bus stop at 3rd Ave	7:10	7:10
	Bus stop at 4th Ave	7:15	7:15
	Bus stop at 5th Ave	7:20	7:20
	Bus stop at 6th Ave	7:25	7:25
	Bus stop at 7th Ave	7:30	7:30
	Bus stop at 8th Ave	7:35	7:35
	Bus stop at 9th Ave	7:40	7:40
	Bus stop at 10th Ave	7:45	7:45

To Brooklyn (Westbound)			
Line	Stop	Time	Time
MONTAUK LINE	Bus stop at 10th Ave	7:45	7:45
	Bus stop at 9th Ave	7:40	7:40
	Bus stop at 8th Ave	7:35	7:35
	Bus stop at 7th Ave	7:30	7:30
	Bus stop at 6th Ave	7:25	7:25
	Bus stop at 5th Ave	7:20	7:20
	Bus stop at 4th Ave	7:15	7:15
	Bus stop at 3rd Ave	7:10	7:10
	Bus stop at 2nd Ave	7:05	7:05
	Bus stop at 1st Ave	7:00	7:00
NORTH FORK LINE	Bus stop at 10th Ave	7:45	7:45
	Bus stop at 9th Ave	7:40	7:40
	Bus stop at 8th Ave	7:35	7:35
	Bus stop at 7th Ave	7:30	7:30
	Bus stop at 6th Ave	7:25	7:25
	Bus stop at 5th Ave	7:20	7:20
	Bus stop at 4th Ave	7:15	7:15
	Bus stop at 3rd Ave	7:10	7:10
	Bus stop at 2nd Ave	7:05	7:05
	Bus stop at 1st Ave	7:00	7:00

Need a Place to Stay?

For information on lodging and places to visit contact the North Fork Promotion Committee (northfork.org) or the Southampton Chamber of Commerce (southamptonchamber.com)

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The Brooklyn Paper Photo by Lisa Curtis

Get lit

Get out your hardcovers and smudge-proof autograph pens, because the celebrity riddled Brooklyn Book Festival is on its way.

On Friday at Borough Hall, Borough President Markowitz and Johnny Temple, chair of the Brooklyn Literary Council, offered a sneak peek at the lineup for this year's highly anticipated fest, which will take place on Sept. 14 in Downtown Brooklyn Heights.

Among the bold-faced literati expected to participate are Joan Didion ("The Year of Magical Thinking"), Jonathan Franzen ("The Corrections"), and GO Brooklyn's guilty pleasure Cecily von Ziegesar, author of "The Gossip Girl" book — and television — series.

"I think that this festival will be the best yet — if the general buzz and list of early confirmed authors is any indication," Temple told GO Brooklyn, promising nothing less than a "hip, smart, diverse" event in keeping with the borough's "long, glorious literary history."

"This year, there's going to be an even heavier emphasis on international programming," revealed Temple. "We made it

clear from the start that the festival is not strictly Brooklyn, but anything worth a Brooklyn focus. From around the world, [we have secured] very high profile, groundbreaking authors."

In addition to writers of poetry, young adult novels, fiction, non-fiction and everything in between, the festival will feature hundreds of exhibitors such as literary magazines and literary agencies.

"Phyllida and the Brotherhood of Philander," Herenden's first novel, takes place in England in 1812, but the characters aren't recognizable to Brooklynites today.

The book's main players are Phyllida Lewis, a romance novel writer that Herenden admitted was based, just a bit, on herself; and Andrew Carrington, a suave, comely heir who's just a bit too perfect to be attainable — for the ladies at least.

And though Herenden was happy to mine her own experiences to write the book — "Of course I had a 'boyfriend' who was gay!" she told GO Brooklyn — it took more than 30 years to work up the nerve to do so.

"It never occurred to me that I could be a writer," said Herenden. "The stuff I liked reading, which was good, popular fiction, I thought I didn't

Licking Romance

Heights writer's historical fiction is funny business

By Adam Rathe
The Brooklyn Paper

Despite slipping Earl Grey tea, like one of the characters in her debut novel might do, Ann Herenden isn't your average romance novelist.

The Brooklyn Heights native, who lives in the Grace Court apartment she grew up in, is equally inspired by Jane Austen as she is the gay nightclubs — Flamingo, anyone? — that she frequented in the 1970s.

"Phyllida and the Brotherhood of Philander," Herenden's first novel, takes place in England in 1812, but the characters aren't recognizable to Brooklynites today.

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"It never occurred to me that I could be a writer," said Herenden. "The stuff I liked reading, which was good, popular fiction, I thought I didn't

n't have the talent to do."

So Herenden wrote only for herself for years, settling in to her full-time job as a cataloging librarian at a museum in Manhattan.

Not having studied to be a writer, she wasn't sure her work would be taken seriously. But by reading, writing and stretching herself, Herenden saw an improvement in her own skill.

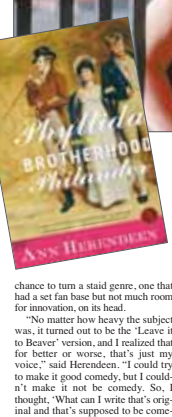
"All of the great writers of the past, before there were MFAs in creative writing, [reading] is the way they learned," she said, in a coffee shop on Montague Street.

"From reading Jane Austen and historical romance novels to weird comic novels...it sort of percolated and steved in my brain."

In 2005, ready to share her work, Herenden eventually self-published "Phyllida and the Brotherhood of Philander." It was two years later that an editor from HarperCollins, having read the book, contacted her and asked if she was interested in re-releasing the novel with the publishing company.

The writer, well versed in Regency romances, knew a good proposal when she heard it and jumped at the chance.

What her new editor saw was a



Ann Herenden

Drama queen: Brooklyn Heights novelist Ann Herenden adds a new twist to the Regency romance genre in her debut book, "Phyllida and the Brotherhood of Philander."

dy?" and that's how I got the idea of historical romance and specifically the romance set in the period between 1811 and 1820.

"I read a lot of that and thought, 'wouldn't it be fun to take the idea of the bisexual hero and of the woman married to him and make that into a Regency romance?'"

Despite being a big time author, Herenden still keeps the hours of a fiction hobbyist and doesn't make the rounds at local literary haunts.

"It was a fun book to write, but I'm very much a night person," she said, admitting she prefers staying in and "writing to revisiting the nightlife of her formative years." "When I'm most eager to go out and join the world, it's at least midnight, and I don't really feel that that point it's worth it."

For those anxiously awaiting her next novel, a retelling of "Pride and Prejudice," her decision to forego nightlife and stay in and make the rounds at local literary haunts.

BOOKS

"Phyllida and the Brotherhood of Philander" by Ann Herenden (\$14.95, HarperCollins) is available at Barnes & Noble (267 Seventh Ave., at Sixth Street in Park Slope). For information, call (718) 832-9066 or visit www.annherenden.com.

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

AVENUE EXTENSION AND DELKS AVENUE: (718) 488-1624.

RYAN REPERTORY: "Kong" 3 p.m. See Sat., June 21.

BARGE MUSIC: Classical music program 4 p.m. See Sat., June 21.

DANCE: "Self Surgery" 6 p.m. See Sat., June 21.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Macbeth" 7 p.m. See Sat., June 21.

OTHER: BROOKLYN FEA: The Flea, an artisan showcase, features vendors of vintage furniture, clothing and antiques alongside new designs by local makers of everything from jewelry to tea-bags. School Loaghin Memorial High School, Lafayette Avenue, between Clermont and Vanderbilt avenues. 10 am to 5 p.m. www.brooklynflea.com.

HEALTH AND SPORTS FEAR: The Russian American Foundation hosts a community health and sports fair, 11 am to 6 p.m. Aser Levy Park, West 16th Street and Surf Avenue. (212) 437-6118. Free.

MULTICULTURAL ARTS FEST: National Caribbean American Heritage Month celebrates Brooklyn talents. Steel pan orchestras, calypso singers and West Indian dancers perform.

Noon to 5 p.m. Kings Plaza, Avenue U and Flatbush Avenue. (866) 894-1812. Free.

ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON: The Society of Old Brooklynites celebrates its 128th anniversary. Keynote speaker is Scot Medbury, President of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. 543 Avenue N. (718) 748-3165.

HISTORY LESSON: Urban Park Rangers host a talk about Fort Greene. 1 p.m. Fort Greene Visitor Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park. Call 311. Free.

VACCINE LECTURE: "Vaccines: Deception and Tragedy," a talk by Didactic Mediums. \$55. 2

pm to 6 pm. NYC College of Technology, 275 Jay St. (347) 783-7544.

RECEPTION: Corridor Gallery hosts a reception for "Positivity," a collection of photographs 4 pm to 7 pm. 334 Grand Ave. (718) 230-5002. Free.

FLEA MARKET: at St. Bernadette School. 4 pm to 10 pm. 82nd Street and 13th Avenue. (718) 837-3400.

MON, JUNE 23

METROCARD MOBILE SALES: Senior citizens and people with disabilities can apply for half-price Metrocards. 10 am to noon. Narrows Senior Center,

1230 63rd St. (718) 232-3211.

BASEBALL GAME: Brooklyn Cyclones play the Iron Birds. \$7 to \$15. 7 pm. KeySpan Park, 1904 Surf Ave. (718) 449-8497.

BOOKCLOUT: Author Dany Straus reads from his book: "More Than 6 Harts You." 7 pm. 163 Court St. (718) 875-3077. Free.

DANCE: The Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center continues its "Souls of Our Feet: People of Color Dance Festival" with Abraham in Motion. T. Lang and A.M. 515, 512 students.

MOVIE NIGHT: Pacific Standard presents "The Warriors" and "Escape from New York." 8 pm. 82 Fourth Ave. (718) 858-1951. Free.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Macbeth" 9 pm. See Sat., June 28.



'Feet' first: The Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center's 'Souls of Our Feet: People of Color Dance Festival' continues on June 23 with a performance by Abraham in Motion (above).

TUES, JUNE 24

MATINEE CONCERT: Regina Opera Company gives a performance of operas and selections from Broadway shows. 1:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, 1743 66th St. (718) 236-1760. Free.

SEXY MOMS: Babeland invites moms to meet its co-founder, Park Sloper Claire Cawson. Discussion includes desire, body image, making time for sex and more. 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Refreshments served. 462 Bergen St. (718) 638-3820. Free.

READING: Word Bookstore presents Greenpoint's Chris Christensen, author of "The Great Man." 7:30 pm. 126 Franklin St. (718) 383-0096. Free.

DANCE: The Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center continues its "Souls of Our Feet: People of Color Dance Festival" with Furelements and Asase Yaa, in a program of dance with African rhythms. \$15, \$12 students. 7:30 pm. Long Island University's Kumbhe Theatre, Flatbush Avenue Extension and Delks Avenue. (718) 488-1624.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Macbeth" 7 pm. See Sat., June 28.

WEDS, JUNE 25

URBAN GLASS: Graal and cameo with Greg Dietrich. \$725 for five sessions, through June 29. 10 am to 5 pm. Also, casting with Tessa Clegg. \$925 for five sessions through June 29. 10 am to 3 pm. 447 Fulton St. (718) 625-3685.

BUSINESS BASICS SEMINAR: Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce hosts a talk. 1 pm to 2:30 pm. Brooklyn Business Solutions Center, 9 Bond St. 16th floor. (718) 246-5219. Free.

EVENING PADDOLE: Sebago Canoe Club hosts its weekly paddle from Pier 40 to Pier 41. 6 pm to 8 pm. Pier 40, 100 West Street. (718) 449-8497.

DISCOVERY TOUR: Take a canoe or kayak trip for up to 20 minutes within the protected park pier area and then help clean the shoreline. 6 pm to 8 pm. 100 West Street. (718) 449-8497.

SUMMER PARTY: Exalt hosts a party with music by DJ Beverly Denise. 5:30 pm to 7 pm. 100 West Street. (718) 449-8497.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Macbeth" 7 pm. See Sat., June 28.

THURS, JUNE 26

THE WATERFALLS: First day of Public Art Fund's presentation of artist Elanor's new-made falls. Waterfalls cascade at four sites from 7 am to 10 pm daily, and are lit at sunset. For viewing, go to the Brooklyn anchorage of the Brooklyn Bridge, between Piers 4 and 5 on the East River waterfront between Tumen and Jorlemont streets. www.publicartfund.org. Also, NY Waterfalls tour given by NY Water Taxi. \$25 adults, \$18 seniors. Tour departs 7 pm at South Street Seaport. www.nywatertaxi.com.

RHYTHM AND BLUES FEST: Outdoor concert series hosted by Brooklyn Academy of Music. 7:30 pm. 126 Franklin St. (718) 383-0096. Free.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Macbeth" 7 pm. See Sat., June 28.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS: Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce hosts a networking event. Event takes place at Madi Fun, a state-of-the-art facility featuring interactive entertainment for the family. Members free, non-members \$300. Includes a one-year "Entrepreneur" level membership. 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. 303 Stanley Ave. (718) 975-1000.

ART SHOW: 440 Gallery presents its fourth annual "Small Works" event, displaying artwork no larger than 12" x 12". Reception from 6 pm to 9 pm. 440 South Ave. (718) 499-3844. Free.

BASEBALL GAME: Brooklyn Cyclones play the Iron Birds. \$7 to \$15. 7 pm. KeySpan Park, 1904 Surf Ave. (718) 449-8497.

READING: Barnes and Noble hosts a reading with Willard Welch, author of "Tactics of Hope." 7 pm. 106 Court St. (718) 246-4996. Free.

TWILIGHT TOUR: Take a canoe or kayak trip for up to 20 minutes within the protected park pier area and then help clean the shoreline. 6 pm to 8 pm. 100 West Street. (718) 449-8497.

SENIOR FARM: St. Francis College offers information about business and organizations which offer services to senior citizens. 11 am to 2 pm. 180 Rensselaer St. (718) 246-4897. Free.

READING: Barnes and Noble hosts a reading with Willard Welch, author of "Tactics of Hope." 7 pm. 106 Court St. (718) 246-4996. Free.

BASEBALL GAME: Brooklyn Cyclones play the Iron Birds. \$7 to \$15. 7 pm. KeySpan Park, 1904 Surf Ave. (718) 449-8497.

CELEBRATE BARGE: Brooklyn Cyclones play the Iron Birds. \$7 to \$15. 7 pm. KeySpan Park, 1904 Surf Ave. (718) 449-8497.

CELEBRATE BARGE: Brooklyn Cyclones play the Iron Birds. \$7 to \$15. 7 pm. KeySpan Park, 1904 Surf Ave. (718) 449-8497.

FREEBIRD BOOKS: presents "Rus Magazine" series with Lara Vovsey. She reads from her collection of short stories: "Broccoli and Other Tales of Food and Love." 7:30 pm. 123 Court St. (718) 449-8497. Free.

JAZZ AT BARGE MUSIC: Teo Koskian's Standard Orbit

BARGE MUSIC: Here and Now series celebrates American contemporary composers. 8 pm. 150 Kent Ave. (718) 965-8999.

CONCERT: at beam Music. Miles Okazaki plays guitar at 9 pm. 150 Kent Ave. (718) 965-8999.

RYAN REPERTORY: "Kong" 8 pm. See Sat., June 28.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Macbeth" 9 pm. See Sat., June 28.

SAT, JUNE 28

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

TREE MENDOUS WALK: Urban Park Rangers offer a guided tour of Prospect Park. Learn how to identify trees by bark and leaves. 1 pm. Meet at Audubon Center, enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 965-8999.

SUNSET WATER TOUR: Get away for 90 minutes while taking in the views of the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge and the Manhattan skyline. \$25. 8 pm. Tour Departs Pier 17 at South Street Seaport, Manhattan. Reservations required. www.manhattanist.com

PERFORMANCE

THE YARD: presents Benvenuto and Russo Duo. \$20. 4 pm. 388-400 Canal St. (718) 787-1701.

THE BRICK: presents "A Paranoiac's Guide to History." \$15. 5 pm. 575 Metropolitan Ave. (718) 907-6189.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: presents Brooklyn High School Crooklyn Dodgers Reunion featuring D.C. and the Damns, Chubb Rock, EMC with Master Ace, DJ Premier and others. \$3 suggested donation. 7 pm. Prospect Park band shell, Prospect Park West at Ninth Street. (718) 965-8999.

BARGE MUSIC: Classical music program of works by Mozart, Beethoven and Shostakovich. \$15 students. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

RYAN REPERTORY: presents "Kong," a new performance work. \$20. \$18 seniors. 8 pm. Harry Warren Theatre, 2445 Bath Ave. (718) 965-8999.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: TR Warszawa, a theater company from Poland, presents "Macbeth." Production features a two-story set, video walls, and special effects. \$25 and up. 9 pm. Tobacco Warehouse, Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park. (718) 254-8777.

OTHER

BROOKLYN INDEPENDENCE PARADE: 103rd annual Brooklyn Independence Day Parade, featuring live music, floats and more. Noon. 13th Avenue from 66th to 86th. (718) 833-8328.

FLEA MARKET: at Church of the Holy Spirit. 9 am to 4 pm. 817 Bay Pkwy. (718) 637-6412.

ARTISAN MARKET: hosted by Fort Greene Park Conservancy. 9 am to 6 pm. Fort Greene Park, Delks Avenue sidewalk perimeter. (718) 855-8175.

INDIE MARKET: offers handmade items. 11 am to 7 pm. Smith Street between 1st and 2nd streets. (347) 407-1187.

HERSTORY ARCHIVES: Open house and tours. Noon to 4 pm. 484 14th St. (718) 768-9953.

PANEL DISCUSSION: Corridor Gallery hosts a talk moderated by Danny Simmons and Tails. See 9 DAYS on page 12

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SOCIETY REPORT

The happy (DUMBO) couple

By Sarah Portlock

At least one prime DUMBO property is officially off the market — real-estate developer Ed Valentas got hitched.

Valentas and fiancée Katie Engelbrecht married sometime during the last two weeks, a family spokesman confirmed. No further details were provided, citing the happy couple's desire for privacy.

But privacy is not an easy thing for a Web site to do. After all, Jed's father, David, essentially created the neighborhood Under the Man-



hattan Bridge Overpass 20 years ago — and his 33-year-old son has taken over operations of the billion-dollar development company, which has tectacles that extend to Fort Greene, Downtown and even Manhattan's West Side.

Engelbrecht, a 32-year-old described by Time Out New York in 2006 as a "bright-eyed and engaging" photographer, has an office in a Valentas-owned building in Manhattan. "No, sweetie, about that rent increase..."

The marriage of these two Brooklynites certainly defies the odds. At The Brooklyn Paper reported last week, divorces are up 30 percent in just four years.

PARK IT HERE!

Temp space for 'Waterfall' view

By Jessica Firger

The Brooklyn Paper

The Floating Pool in Brooklyn Bridge Park is cool for swimmers last summer — but this year, the park will make a big splash with art lovers.

Starting on Thursday, a piece of Pier 1 just to the south of the Fulton Ferry Landing will become a temporary open space, the only place where visitors will be able to see all four of the "New York City Waterfalls" in artist Olafur Eliasson's much-anticipated art project, which starts during the same day.

"You can almost touch the water and the Staten Island Ferry from there," gushed Marianna Koval, director of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy.

This 26,000-square-foot mini-park will cost \$100,000 to build, according to the Daily News.

The park will offer a number of activities, including items will be embedded in the asphalt for scavenger hunts, benches for relaxing, a sand pit, four trees and

food from nearby Riverdale restaurants (you can even BYOB).

It's the second high-profile interim use on the site of the proposed Brooklyn Bridge Park, a residential, commercial and open space development spanning 1.3

mi along the DUMBO and Brooklyn Heights waterfront. Last year, the Floating Pool drew 72,000 swimmers.

The temporary park will be open from June 26 to Sept. 1, 10 am to 10 pm everyday.

The waterfalls are on view from June 26 to Oct. 13. Free shuttle buses will make regular runs back and forth to Borough Hall from 5-10:30 pm weekdays, and noon-10:30 pm on weekends.

or unwilling to put in the mandatory two hours and 45 minutes of work every four weeks, while the Flatbush Food Co-op has alienated consumers who aren't interested in health foods.

Gross's co-op will allow shoppers to contribute cash or other services — a strategy that Gross says will help grow the ranks and bolster the bank account.

He added that the Bay Ridge collective would only purchase foods that its members demand — whether that means wheat grass or Wheat Thins.

Joe Holtz, general manager of the Park Slope Food Co-op, objected to Gross's suggestion that his grocery is exclusive.

"By making food that's usually very expensive affordable to everyone, we're actually not exclusive," said Holtz, whose co-op requires labor, but charges everyone the same prices.

Gross hopes to start distributing food by the end of July and he says that the Bay Ridge co-op will be truly cooperative — even if that means it will carry items he loathes.

"I personally would prefer not to see some of these crazy health foods like wild grains, but what he's spotlighting is what the community needs," he said.

The first Bay Ridge Food Co-op will meet on June 25 at 730 p.m. Call 718/680-5533 or e-mail baycoop@gmail.com for info.

University Hospital, the Sullivan Foundation and the Staten Island Academy.

As a director of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Powers is bracing for Democratic broadsides about his affiliation with the embattled agency, but he's spotlighting his two-and-a-half-year record.

"They can use the MTA as a whipping boy, but we've got to get to the full record," he says will be spearheaded the renovation of the 86th Street station in Bay Ridge and got more express buses in both parts of the cross-Narrows district.

Powers said he'll focus on transportation issues, though he offered no specific ideas for curing the district's congestion.

"I don't have an agenda yet, but I suggest you take a ride on the highway at rush hour and you'll see what I mean," he said, adding

ers has never run for public office. But he didn't think that it would be an obstacle.

"You do it by community action," said the Bay Ridge-born Powers, who rattled off a list of philanthropic work with Staten Island groups like Staten Island

seat being vacated by Fossella. Powers and local Republicans had been nearly silent since the retired Wall Street financier and current MTA board member was backing out of county leaders on both sides of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge last month for the



The lightly used Heart of Brooklyn "trolley" service will be replaced with a new service in the fall.

Tourist 'trolley' goes the way of the Dodgers

By Sarah Portlock

The Brooklyn Paper

The fake, gas-puzzling tourist trolleys that have failed to attract visitors to Brooklyn's cultural institutions have been quietly put out of their misery, and will be replaced later this summer with fuel-efficient models that will go all the way into Manhattan in search of tourist treasure.

The original trolleys will make their last loop on July 1 — a victim of a ridership that had dwindled to mostly locals enjoying a free lift between activities.

The new program will start in late summer or early fall, with Borough President Markowitz and the Heart of Brooklyn arts consortium unveiling buses to bring tourists to Prospect Park, the Botanic Garden and the Brooklyn Museum from Manhattan hotspots like Times Square, the South Street Seaport, and Museum Mile along upper Fifth Avenue.

We're going to promote [local cultural institutions] to specific populations who may not be visiting [the Heart of Brooklyn's Executive Director Ellen Salpeter. "We're trying to focus on bringing in some of those dollars to Brooklyn."

The new buses will shuttle tourists to the Brooklyn Museum for First Saturdays, a free event each month. On other Saturdays, the buses will remain in the borough, bringing to the park Brooklynites from neighborhoods like Bay Ridge and Williamsburg that have no easy mass transit connection.

And on Sundays, the buses will again bring tourists from Manhattan, Salpeter said. Ideally, the shuttles will be free, she added, but those details are still under discussion.

The project will be funded by a \$475,000 city grant to purchase new "green" shuttle buses. An additional \$150,000 grant from Deutsche Bank will help mark the effort.

The fake trolley failure was apparent to local shoppers, who enjoyed the free ride, but rarely saw the throngs of tourists for whom the freebie was designed. A 2006 report commissioned by Heart of Brooklyn sealed the fate of the bus service with a finding that 75 percent of the riders were indeed Brooklynites.

This time, Salpeter said the shuttles would have a more aggressive advertising push. So far, the trickiest part has been negotiating a feasible route.

"Our trolley moved around the park which was no traffic in it — so we knew how long that took," Salpeter said. "We want to get the routes done. It's New York... There's always something that you're not expecting."

State: Tranny flick too racy for park lineup

By Jessica Firger

The Brooklyn Paper

A transsexual punk rocker is too racy, but a psychopath with an ax is just fine with state park officials when they approved this year's summer movie lineup in Empire Fulton Ferry State Park.

Three out of eight films selected by the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy — "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," "The Shining" and "Scream 4" — were under scrutiny because of their rating.

After state parks commissioner Carol Ash viewed the films, only "Hedwig" was banned — and Conservancy director Marianna Koval is still scratching her head.

"Certainly, showing an R-rated film after 9 p.m. should be considered reasonable," Koval said. "But the Brooklyn Paper, adding that state officials have

never blocked a film during the eight-year-old movie series, which has shown plenty of R-rated flicks, including "Do the Right Thing," "Coming to America," and "Savage," as well as unrated classics, such as "Double Indemnity" and "The Day the Earth Stood Still."

A state policy prohibits R-rated movies, but the regulation was not enforced during the Park's administration, Koval said.

Eileen Larabee, a state parks spokeswoman, said "Hedwig" was banned because it was inappropriate for public park viewing.

"Our goal was to make sure our parks are accessible, friendly, and inviting to families," said Larabee — though showtimes are well after the youngsters are asleep.

"Hedwig" was replaced with "Cubed," which has a similar trans-generated theme," said Mary Mamm, co-chair of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy's film committee.

That film passed muster with the state because it's rated PG.

The conservancy said the film series draws 2,000-3,000 people per showing each summer, with movies selected under a single theme. This year, the theme is change.

"This summer, you've got pubescent change, political change, and personal change," Rogers said.

"Or, I guess, a nervous breakdown," she added, referring to the ostensible plot of "The Shining."

It's not the first time that state officials have tangled with the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy, which books entertainment for the site of the planned Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Last year, state Parks officials scheduled a Pilsner production of "Macbeth" on the same days that the Conservancy had set aside for the Brooklyn Hip-Hop festival.

A mix-up that enraged the festival's organizers, who initially thought the cancellation was racially motivated.

The Brooklyn Paper PARENT

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

In fact, Teen Spirit needs his space

Smartmon is in love with Anthony E. Wolf, author of "Get Out of My Life, But First Could You Drive Me and Cheryl to the Mall," even if his book has a silly name.

This parent's guide to the new teenager is nothing less than a handy guidebook to Teen Spirit.

For Smartmon, reading Dr. Tony's book was a great comfort. She inhaled the sections on teenage boys in one sitting and marked up the book with all kinds of annoying underlines, exclamation points and words.

"Yes, yes," she wrote next to the paragraph that said, "Boys solve the problem of their need to separate from their parents by doing just that: physically separating. They become vanishing exercises. They learn the logic of saying 'yes,' but doing 'no.'"

That's for sure. Teen Spirit

has been pretty scarce around here lately. He goes off to "Eric's house" on weekend nights, when he's not at band practice, at a show somewhere in Bushwick, Williamsburg or Fort Greene, or hanging out with friends in Brooklyn Heights.

Sadly, Teen Spirit seems to have no use for the wisdom of his exceptionally insightful and intuitive parent (718) 834-9350 and it must be irksome to have a mother who calls herself Smartmon in print.

Indeed, as Dr. Tony wrote, "It is very important for adolescents to begin viewing adults as flawed. Teenagers know that to go out shortly into the adult world and survive. The natural thing to do is look for evidence that adults are human and flawed as well."

All of this helps explain why



By Louise Crawford

Smartmon and Teen Spirit have been having a hard time lately — which has been hard for Smartmon, who always prided himself on having such a good relationship with his son.

But Teen Spirit's behavior is textbook. Dr. Tony wrote in his textbook: "Boys are especially likely to avoid their mother. For most boys, there has already been one particular woman in their life whom they have loved deeply. Unfortunately, that woman is

their mother. Hence, until they get their new and fairly amorphous sexuality firmly focused on females outside the home, their mother presents a problem."

The only thing that still connects Smartmon and Teen Spirit is the time they spend together on week-day mornings from 6 a.m. until 7:15 a.m. when he leaves for school.

It's not that they really talk, but Teen Spirit asks Smartmon whether his really skinny black jeans are clean or whether he can have some money. He lets her pour him a big bowl of Cocoa Puffs and milk.

Smartmon and Hecat can't believe what a classic teenager

they have in their midst. They thought they were always such coolastic parents: very empathic, very creative, very accepting of whatever Teen Spirit wanted to do.

But despite their best intentions, Teen Spirit feels the need to rebel against them, hate them, smirk at them and spend inordinate amounts of time away from them.

And they are just spinning from what they feel is their mistreatment by their beloved son. Smartmon is trying not to take it too hard. But she and Hecat are wracking their brains trying to figure out how to reel him back in. Thankfully, Dr. Tony offers pointers on the overly independent. It's tricky, very tricky.

"You do not win the battle for control with a teenager," he wrote. "There are many things that parents absolutely do not want their teenage children to

do — drink, use drugs, be sexually active, cut school, hang around with undesirable friends — but most teenagers do some or all of the above on a fairly regular basis."

Dr. Tony went on to say that with adolescents, usually the best that you can expect is imperfect control.

"The greatest error that parents of teenagers can make is to believe that disobedience means total loss of control. Believing this, they often go all out, sometimes with dire consequence, to reestablish the control that they have not really lost to begin with."

In other words: make rules, but don't engage in the escalating punishments game. That can end in disaster.

But if anything, she and Hecat probably haven't punished Teen Spirit enough. They've let him get away with a lot, especially when it comes to school.

School. Yes, school. That's the albatross around Teen Spirit's neck right now. And with college looming in the future, this pushes so many buttons in Smartmon, who desperately wants Teen Spirit to take it more seriously.

Buddha knows, many of the choices (good and bad) that adolescents make, particularly in school, can affect them for the rest of lives.

"This is the cruel irony," Dr. Tony wrote. "We are asked to let go precisely when the stakes go up."

But letting go what adolescence is all about: for the parent and the teen.

"The capacity to let go, to separate to allow a child to resolve his or her own destiny is crucial to being the parent of a teenager," Dr. Tony wrote.

And that is the hardest part of it. Louise Crawford also writes "Only the Blog Knows Brooklyn," a Web site.

NATURAL

Continued from page 7

who moved from Moscow to Bensonhurst to paint their ceramic half-human, half-animal chimeras.

Also featured are Ana Delgado, a photographer of trees around the world; Hugh Kearney, who creates collages using pieces of Kings County flora; Mary Pinto, who makes color photographs of artificial flowers; and two printmakers, Funko Toda and April Vollmer, who use similar techniques to produce startlingly different creations.

By introducing us to all of these artists' visions, Burmeister said, he hopes to open up our eyes to a new way of seeing Brooklyn.

"It happens to me all the time — I start to see the world around me in a different way," he said. "It's magical."

Connor, photographer of plastic deer and other Brooklyn wildlife, looks at local gardens for a small-scale perspective on human interaction with nature.

"The whole idea of the garden itself is kind of that cusp between nature and artifice, or domesticated and wild," he said, pointing out that while a tidy garden can represent the human impulse to groom nature to our own tastes, an unkempt garden reminds us of nature's resilient, disobedient fertility.

"One kind of morphs into the other. Sometimes artifice becomes more natural than nature and nature becomes more artificial than artifice," he said.

In one of Connor's photographs, a clump of plants is set in front of a floral mural that has been painted onto the cement wall behind it. The real plants blend into the painted mural to the point that one is almost indistinguishable from the other.

For Connor, this corner of a small community garden in Park Slope represents people's attempts everywhere to bring nature, or the appear-

ance of nature, into their lives and communities.

"I think that green space and the natural world as it appears in cities become very precious to people," he said. "I don't know if this is always conscious. But if you look around, you'll see it on people's roofs and in little tiny backyards and pocket parks. There's a lot [of] nature. But it's different, it's transformed."

Pinto, a photographer with an entirely different style, has her own way of transforming the artificial into the natural. In her work for "Brooklyn Au Natural," Pinto made color photographs of flowers, similar to botanical prints made in the 1800s. But instead of using real flowers, Pinto worked with silk and plastic flowers, bought at

dollar stores along Manhattan Avenue.

Pinto said that she was inspired by the flowerpots of her Greenpoint neighbors.

"I like the way people mix real flowers and fake flowers," she said. "People will put some plastic geraniums in a pot with real leaves."

By incorporating these manufactured blooms from Manhattan Avenue into her photographs, Pinto said, her work becomes an "updated version" of those early botanical prints.

"There's a lot of real nature around me, but there's also a lot of artificial nature and representations of nature. I use the things around me to make my images, but my things are different," she said.

And whether those things are plastic flowers, real gardens, or garish artificial decor, it looks like Brooklyn is not going to surrender its natural beauty anytime soon.

ART

"Brooklyn Au Natural" is on display through July 20 at the Safe Gallery (111 West 21st St., Suite 214, at Washington Street and 12th Ave.). Hours: Mondays from noon to 8 p.m. and Fridays through Sundays from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Free. For information, call (718) 752-5920 or visit www.safegallery.com.

FAMILY CALENDAR

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SATURDAY, JUNE 21
11 a.m. Story time with Garry Bear, Barnes and Noble (106 Court St., at State Street in Downtown Brooklyn). Free. Call (718) 246-4996 for info.

12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. "Pinochio" Puppetworks (138 West 4th St., at Fourth Street at Surf Avenue in Coney Island). Call (718) 265-F518 for info.

3 p.m. Improv workshop. Brooklyn Arts Exchange (421 Fifth Ave., at Eighth Street in Park Slope). \$20 per pair. Call (718) 832-0018 for info.

3:30 p.m. "Hazel and Grete" at the Brooklyn Repertory Opera. Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave., at President Street in Park Slope). \$20, \$10 kids. Call (718) 857-4816 for info.

4 p.m. AudraRox concert. Carroll Park (President Street at Carroll Gardens). Suggested donation of \$5 per family. Visit www.audrarox.com for info.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22
1 p.m. Six bands, including Cars Bears on Fire. Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave., at Seefelt Place in Park Slope). \$10. Call (718) 230-0236 for info.

1 p.m. and 4 p.m. CIRCUSunday at the Waterfront Museum and Showboat Barge (100 of Conover Street in Red Hook). \$10 (kids). Call (877) 238-5596 to buy Adult \$2 for same-day purchase. For info on the shows, call (718) 624-4119.

1 a.m. and 2 p.m. Art workshop. See Saturday, June 21.

To list your event, email information to Calendar@BrooklynPaper.com.

CIRCUS comes to town!

There is a small miracle taking place on the Red Hook waterfront.

For I am not talking about the Ikea superstore (though I will soon be filing a deeply inclusive review of its ball pit. I assure you.)

No, the miracle is the micro-spectacle that is CIRCUSunday at the Waterfront Museum and Showboat Barge at the foot of Conover Street.

With just two more Sundays remaining in the series, skip that shopping trip and give your kids a small-scale theatrical experience that will dazzle and amaze.

It's a circus, so the actors take the stage and release it to their fellow performers on a revolving basis. On Sunday, a pair of slapstick clown gave way to a man juggling huge Chinese vases before the juggler yielded to a twenty man who did a full 360-degree back flip from a standing position before gracefully leaving the stage for a comic magician named Will Fern.

Typically, a name of my bear-trap logic has no use for the black arts of legman, juggler, circus and the Detroit shim-sham. And I certainly have patience for an act that begins with the magician pulling out an oversized can-punch and saying, "So much for my big opener."

But if there is a better magician working today, he has not revealed himself to me. I didn't get where I am in this racket by being beguiled by a mere journeyman, but Fern's skills made me need supplemental oxygen (and not because of my two-packs-a-day pleasure).

In his greatest feat, he was actually sitting in the audience while his assistants did the trick in his entirety. Here is how it went down:

1. A member of the audience picked a card from a deck (it turned out to be the three of clubs).

2. The "assistant," wearing bunny ears for some reason, handed it to the other assistant, who just as inexplicably, donated a genie hat. The genie ripped the card into four pieces and put it in the "magic box."

3. The lapine assistant then carried a tray of oranges to another member of the audience, who stabbed one of the citrus treats with a knife. At that point, the genie said the magic word three times.

4. The audience member handed the orange back to the rabbit.

5. The rabbit-carried gal ripped open the orange to reveal a re-assembled three of clubs — minus the bottom corner.



By Thurston Dooley III

6. Fern expressed shock: "You only said the magic word three times!" he said.

7. The genie reopened the magic box and, sure enough, found the missing piece of the three of clubs.

This is not to take anything away from rubber-limbed gymnast Rudy Macagati, juggler David Sharpe, or the duo from Cirque Menagerie (which elicited far more glees from the under-8 set than Fern's bewitchment).

I have ever seen (and I will recall, I was the Doug Henning correspondent for "Magician Aficionado" in the 1970s) compared to that card-in-the-orange trick.

It will haunt me all my days.

July 1, for show details.

Acrobat Dikki Ellis is a great CIRCUSunday performer, but magician Will Fern sufficed our reviewer with his talents.

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OUR OPINION

Don't kill Red Hook

It is tempting to see the opening of the Ikea mega-store in Red Hook on Wednesday as a game-changing moment in the area's commercial renaissance, a sort of "retail therapy" for a neighborhood in the doldrums.

There is no question that the store offers benefits to the area, the borough and the entire city. Prices at Ikea are reasonable, the offerings are varied and urbane, and, most important, its proximity means that shoppers will be spending their money in Red Hook, rather than burning gasoline to get to Ikea locations in New Jersey or Long Island.

Many local officials have cheered the new mega-store — and said they hope it will lead to more such retail in the down-on-its-luck neighborhood.

That's where we part ways with the pole.

Yes, Red Hook needs development and the jobs that come with it — and the bor-



ough needs the national chain retailers that are saving money for consumers all over the country. When such a retailer opens in Brooklyn — as in the case of Target at the Atlantic Terminal Mall, and now Ikea in Red Hook — customers flock to them.

For this reason, we have long advocated (and did so again last week) for Wal-Mart to come to the borough, too.

But, please, not in Red Hook!

When we encourage big-box retailing in the borough, we are calling for those companies to open in urban, pedestrian-friendly areas like the Fulton Mall, not in out-of-the-way places like Red Hook, where huge, energy-sapping parking lots are required, and customers typically drive in and drive out without spending money or time in any of the existing local shops.

Unfortunately, many big-box retailers — including Wal-Mart, Bed, Bath and Beyond and Staples — are drooling over several large Red Hook parcels, land that would handily accommodate thousands of cars.

And under the mantra of "jobs, jobs, jobs," local jobs may be tempted to pave the way for those retailers and their suburban-style customers.

That's not the way to create a vibrant Red Hook.

The jury remains out on Ikea, but it is clear that turning Red Hook into Brooklyn's big box zone would be a step in the wrong direction.

ALL DRAWN OUT

LOST IN BROOKLYN AND LATE FOR HIS FIRST DAY OF WORK, THE IKEA INSTRUCTIONS CHARACTER IS ALARMED TO REALIZE THAT, WHEN CONCEIVED, HE WAS EQUIPPED WITH NEITHER THE VOCABULARY TO READ MAPS NOR THE LANGUAGE SKILLS TO ASK DIRECTIONS.



Cartoon by [unintelligible]

LETTERS

Once again, our Wal-Mart editorial provokes ire, praise

To the editor,

You say that a Wal-Mart in Downtown Brooklyn is a good idea, but the feelings of Brooklynites — and the facts — say otherwise ("Dreaming of Wal-Mart," editorial, June 14).

"Everyday low prices" don't come in a vacuum. Wal-Mart keeps goods cheap by paying substandard wages and benefits, forcing their manufacturers to do the same by demanding ever-lower costs, and bypassing local suppliers.

As for The Brooklyn Paper's view that urban Wal-Mart don't bring the negative economic impacts that are well documented in the suburbs: a 2006 study in Chicago showed that the city's first Wal-Mart caused business closures and reduced retail activity in the surrounding area. Twenty-three out

of 191 retail businesses in the vicinity of the superstore closed within a year, while retail sales data showed a significant loss in sales for area businesses.

Of course, we want to help low-income New Yorkers afford to live in New York. But we would do better to support good jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities.

When you scratch the surface, the cost of Wal-Mart is just too great.

Vicki Weiner, Fort Greene
The writer is director of Planning and Preservation for the Pratt Center for Community Development.

To the editor,

It's too bad that Wal-Mart has been prohibited by our elected officials from joining Ikea in opening its own first store in New York City.

Wal-Mart announced earlier this year that it will be transferring employees along with expanding its business offices to New York City. Last fall, the company reduced the price of over 16,000 back-to-school clothing items and supplies for kids. Parents of schoolchildren should be happy. Previously, the company started offering generic drugs for only \$4.

Said city residents are unable to get these bargains, as Wal-Mart has been unable to open any stores within the five boroughs. The situation is so bad that taxpayer

dollars have been provided to Bronx senior citizens for vans to shuttle them one hour to the nearest Wal-Mart in the Hudson Valley!

Public opinion polls have consistently shown that New Yorkers would welcome the opportunity to shop at Wal-Mart, so it is time to allow the store the chance to compete in the New York City marketplace. Let consumers, rather than politicians, make the decision about what to buy and where to shop.

Larry Penner, Great Neck, N.Y.

Union brawl

Your article about the Union Hall bar fight ("Union splits board," online update, May 12) reported some misinformation that was greatly disturbing.

First, I never called 911 to report Union Hall to the authorities. It was a 311 call that our Buildings Department encouraged me to make nightly, until the bar's "load capacity permit," which the department told us was expired, was updated.

My call happened one and a half hours before the authorities actually showed up — when the bar was quite crowded and there was a performance going on downstairs.

The fire chief who showed up that night never expressed concern that I had made a false call. Indeed, he assured me that he and his team would not have come had there

been a more important emergency.

And why did I do this? Because in all meetings with politicians and State Liquor Authority officials, we were told that the only thing they're allowed to respond to, by law, is infractions. And we were encouraged to do all we can to see that they authorities are made aware of problems, even those that were quality-of-life issues. We intend to continue that effort.

What we need now is for your paper to fully report this issue. Your bias in favor of the bar is apparent.

Jon Crow, Park Slope

Horse attitudes

To the editor,

Thank you for reporting on the ill-maintained bridle path in Prospect Park ("They hurt horses, don't they?" June 7). If dog lovers, of which I am one, had no other choice but to walk our beloved pets on these same sharp stones and treacherous footing, you can bet your bottom dollar the Prospect Park Alliance would have done something about it, pronto!

Horses deserve equal respect, care, love and attention. But it is unacceptable that Alliance President Tipper Thomas said fixing the path is a low priority. Does she realize that her attitude is not just endangering the horses, but the safety of the thousands of park users, many of whom enjoy a recreational trail ride

on the bridle path? It is insincere of her to say she is sympathetic to horses and riders — actions speak louder than words.

Millions of dollars are spent on the upkeep and beautification of Prospect Park by the Prospect Park Alliance, but in the seven years I have been riding in the park, I have never seen attention properly allotted to repair a mere three miles of bridle path.

My heart melts at the sight of children's eyes lighting up and their gleeful shouts of "a horse, a horse!" as these magnificently beautiful animals pass by on the bridle path. These animals contribute greatly to the unique, rustic charm of Prospect Park and concern for their safety should be treated seriously.

Mary Lam, Park Slope

Crime retort

To the editor,

In your article, "'Hill' Street blues" (June 7), you mischaracterized my concern about a recent increase in muggings and property crimes in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill. The reporter wrote that long-term residents of the neighborhood, such as Ursula Hegewich, were not too worried about this year's uptick in robberies and burglaries because crime has fallen drastically compared to the early 1990s.

Well, I am Ursula Hegewich and here is what I believe: For the most part, Fort Greene is a very safe neighborhood. But it would be absurd to assert that because

crime levels are lower now than they were in the 1990s, one shouldn't be concerned about an increase in crime.

I believe that neighborhood organizations like the Fort Greene Association play an important role in addressing neighborhood crime, whether working with our precinct, block associations, churches and our local politicians or advocating on behalf of our youth to support or replace valuable after-school and summer programs many of which are disappearing, due in part to budget cuts.

Neighborhood crime is a complex issue that must be taken seriously regardless of comparative statistics.

Ursula Hegewich, Fort Greene
The writer is chairwoman of the Fort Greene Association

Coney baloney

To the editor,

The decision to trim the annual hot dog-eating championship from 12 minutes to 10 is just a ploy by organizers to give back the title to Takeru Kobayashi ("Call off the dogs," June 16).

Everyone knows that Joey Chestnut is a better late-round eater, so this decision to put the contest on a diet is equivalent of playing only a seven-inning baseball game because your team has a terrible closer.

Alex Holdsworth, Park Slope

Send a letter

By e-mail: Letters@BrooklynPaper.com

By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, 55 Washington St., Brooklyn, NY 11201.

All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

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(co-sponsored by Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz)
Brooklyn Borough Hall
209 Joralemon Street, The Courtroom, 2nd Fl., Brooklyn
Directions: 2, 3, 4, 5 trains to Borough Hall Station;
A, C, F trains to Jay Street/Borough Hall Station

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at Sunrise Senior Living

Join in the festivities as Sunrise Senior Living hosts a Summer Open House Celebration. At this exciting event you can mingle with neighbors, residents and guests. You can also enjoy seasonal fare and delight in a variety of themed entertainment.

While you're here, meet our team, tour our community and find out what we do to make our community a place seniors are proud to call home.

Visit our open house and learn what options are available for your loved ones.

EVENT DETAILS

The Summer Season is Upon Us

Saturday and Sunday
June 21st & 22nd
11:00am to 4:00pm

Space is limited. RSVP to the community nearest to you!

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